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To Rev. H. S. Wylie
with Sir Alexander Moncrieff's compliments
October, 1893

THE
HOUSE OF MONCRIEFF

*One hundred and fifty copies printed
for private distribution, by Sir ALEX-
ANDER MONCRIEFF, K.C.B., Representa-
tive of the family of Culfargie, of which
this is No. ²¹22 .*



MONCRIEFF OF THAT ILK, CO. PERTH.
BARONET OF SCOTLAND AND NOVA SCOTIA

THE
House of Moncrieff

BY

GEORGE SETON, ADVOCATE

M.A. OXON., F.S.A. SCOT.

AUTHOR OF 'SCOTTISH HERALDRY' AND OTHER WORKS

"At genus immortale manet, multosque per annos
Stat fortuna domus, et avi numerantur avorum."—VIRGIL.

"Les anciens disaient *nos ancêtres*, nous disons *la postérité*.....
C'est la magie de l'avenir, et non pas celle du passé, qui nous séduit."
—JOURNET.

EDINBURGH

Printed for Private Circulation

1890

"I have ever thought the knowledge of kinred, and genealogies of the ancient families of a country, a matter so farr from contempt, that it deserveth highest praise. Herein consisteth a part of the knowledge of a man's own selfe. It is a great spurr to vertue to look back on the worth of our line. In this is the memory of the dead preserved with the living, being more firme and honourable than any epitaph. The living know that band which tyeth them to others. By this, man is distinguished from the reasonless creatures, and the noble of men from the baser sort. For it often falleth out (though we cannot tell how) for the most part, that generositie followeth good birth and parentage." —*William Drummond of Hawthornden to his kinsman John, second Earl of Perth.*

"And howbeit sum wald allege that it is flatterie to wryt ony thing praysable in the mannis lyfytyme of quham it is writtin; nochtwithstanding, my opinioun is contrair: That ony thing praysable done, and specialie in making of policy, may be weill aneuche writtin in the doars awin tyme, sua that the werk be done modestlie. And howbeit it be sumptuous and costlie mair nor necessitie requyris, yit it is the maist tollerable kynd of prodigalitie and of sumptuous and immoderate cost; becaus the samyn will be steidable [helpful] to the posteritie, and decoir of the cuntrey. And gif it sal happin the said Lord [George seventh Lord Seton] to do onything contrair his honour and godlie dewitie, or contrair the honour or commoun weill of his hous, to the scayth and perpetuall hurt of the samyn; I sall set furth sic doingis done be him als larglie and weill extendit till his dispraye as I haue done in ony thing befoir said to his loving, he nocht amendand and redressand the samyn in his lyfytyme, gif God fortounis me to leiff and be hable thairto. Bot I pray God, that the said Lord sall nocht in sic inconuenientis, to gif me, or ony man, occasioun to wryt ocht of him bot honorable."—*Cronicle of the Hous of Seytoun, by Sir Richard Maitland of Lethington, Knight.*

P R E F A C E.



ABOUT eighteen years ago my friend and kinsman, Colonel (now Sir Alexander) Moncrieff, representative of the family of Culfargie, requested me to collect materials for an account of the House of Moncrieff, with the view of privately printing a small volume, accompanied by a variety of illustrations, for circulation among his relatives and friends. For reasons into which it is unnecessary to enter, he temporarily abandoned the idea; but after due consideration, he lately determined to carry out his intention in a modified form, confining the illustrations to a series of shields of arms.

His main objects have been to correct a number of important errors in the published accounts of the surname, and to preserve, for the use of his own family and his numerous kinsmen, a good deal of interesting information which might otherwise have been lost.

Sir Alexander Moncrieff has kindly left the mode of treatment to my own judgment, and I have endeavoured to execute my task in accordance with the principles of true genealogy. Owing to the character of the evidence which I have obtained,

a considerable amount of controversial criticism has been necessarily introduced.

In the course of a pretty extensive experience in matters of pedigree, I have never met with a family of so much importance as the Moncrieffs, where the descent of the various branches has been so difficult to trace. With the exception of the line of Culfargie and its cadet, there is still a want of satisfactory evidence as to the precise connection with the main stem of all the branches embraced in the following pages. I venture to believe, however, that I have succeeded in laying the foundation of a genealogical fabric, which more skilful inquirers may hereafter be able to complete.

In the case of a few of the heraldic illustrations, I have failed to find authority for the blazons; and in such instances I have generally adopted the "paternal coat" of the surname, with the addition of a mark of cadency.

For a ready response to my applications for detailed information, I am indebted to the late lamented Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, Baronet; to Mr William B. Skene of Pitlour, representative of the Moncrieffs of Reidie; to Major-General George Moncrieff, commanding Curragh Brigade; and to the Rev. Canon Scott-Moncrieff of Fossaway. I have also to express my obligations to Dr Dickson, Curator of the Historical Department in H.M. General Register House, for facilities afforded to the Rev. Walter Macleod when consulting the records on behalf of Sir Alexander Moncrieff.

G. S.

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THE HOUSE OF MONCRIEFF.



TIME was when it would have been unnecessary—especially in Scotland—to say a single word in vindication of the Sentiment of Birth; but the universal worship of wealth on the one hand, and the spread of what are called “principles of equality” on the other, have to a certain extent modified the old-fashioned belief in the virtues of blood. Accordingly, a few remarks in justification of Family Records may perhaps not be altogether out of place. In days gone by, it must be acknowledged that ancestral glorification was sometimes so offensively indulged in, as to suggest such clever sayings as that of Sir Thomas Overbury, that the man who was always boasting of his pedigree resembled the potato, of which the best part is underground. At present, however, the “self-made man” is the object of popular worship, and the “accident of *birth*”—the circumstance of having been born a gentleman—is beginning to be regarded as a questionable advantage. To use the words of a living poet :—

“’Tis not the world you knew, granny, its fetters have fallen off ;
The lowliest now may rise and rule where the proud used to sit and scoff.
No need to boast of a scutcheoned stock, claim rights from an ancient wrong ;
All are born with a silver spoon in their mouths whose gums are sound and strong.”

“It is highly laudable,” says a writer in the ‘Spectator,’ “to pay respect to men who are descended from worthy ancestors, not only out of gratitude to those who have done good to mankind, but as it is an

encouragement to others to follow their example. But this is an honour to be received, not demanded, by the descendants of great men; and they who are apt to remind us of their ancestors only put us upon making comparisons to their own disadvantage." In his sensible remarks on the topic in question, Sir Egerton Brydges says that "there is no subject more difficult to be dwelt on than that of honourable descent; none on which the world are greater sceptics, none more offensive to them; and yet there is no quality to which every one *in his heart* pays so great a respect." A reverence for ancestry, besides being inherent in human nature, exerts a salutary influence in fostering the praiseworthy desire to maintain the reputation of a family, and lends valuable aid in promoting the general prosperity of a nation. "Our calmer judgment," says Gibbon in his *Autobiography*, "will rather tend to moderate than to suppress the pride of an ancient and worthy race. The satirist may laugh, the philosopher may preach; but Reason herself will respect the prejudices and habits which have been consecrated by the experience of mankind." Although the word *pride* is generally used in an unfavourable sense, we demur to Dr Johnson's unqualified assertion that "all pride is abject or mean." Inordinate self-esteem, arising from a supposed superiority in birth or social position, is accompanied in too many instances by a tendency to look down upon others with unmerited contempt. But there is another phase of the attribute in question which consists of an honourable elation of heart and a manly consciousness of self-respect, nowise akin to haughtiness or vain-glory, and springing chiefly, if not entirely, from a justifiable estimation of a line of virtuous predecessors—a feeling, so to speak, more objective than subjective, and one which is quite compatible with the most courteous and even humble bearing. "An affectionate regard for the memory of our ancestors"—to quote the language of the late Earl of Crawford—"is natural to the heart: it is an emotion totally distinct from pride,—an ideal love free from that consciousness of requited affection and reciprocal esteem, which constitutes so much of the satisfaction we derive from the love of the living. They are denied, it is true, to our personal acquaintance, but the light they shed during their lives survives within their tombs, and will reward our search if we explore them."

Apart, however, from what may be called the individual, or family, view of the subject, it presents a higher aspect in its relation to the common weal. A recent writer observes that "there is a crisis in the history of nations—and a dangerous crisis it is—when the aristocracy of birth has been succeeded by the aristocracy of wealth; and a great historian tells us that no nation has ever reached that crisis without having already begun its downward progress towards deterioration. There are chiefly," he continues, "three influences counteractive of that great danger—viz., Religion, *Hereditary Rank*, and men of contemplative lives. Rank is a power in itself more spiritual, because less tangible, than the power of wealth. The man who commands others by the extent of his broad acres, or by the number of his bales of cotton, rules them by a power more degrading and more earthly than he who rules them simply by the *prestige* of long hereditary claims."¹

Ever since the days of Juvenal, a good many hard things have been

¹ Lècture on Wordsworth (1853), by Rev. Frederick W. Robertson of Brighton.

The same sentiments are eloquently set forth by the late Earl of Derby in a speech relative to the rival claims of Protection and Free Trade, delivered in the House of Lords on the 25th of May 1846, which competent judges (including his son and successor) consider to have been the best of his many brilliant orations. Speaking of the English aristocracy, he said: "Do not mistake me when I speak of the aristocracy. I do not speak exclusively or mainly of that body which I have now the honour to address. I speak, my lords, of the great body of the landed proprietors of this country. I speak of men unennobled by rank, and many of them undistinguished by great wealth, but who, and their ancestors before them for generation after generation, have been the centre, each of his respective locality; who have the *prestige* of old associations attached to their names; who conduct the business of their respective counties; who influence the opinions and feelings of their respective neighbourhoods; who exercise a decent hospitality, and preside over a tenantry who have hereditary claims upon their considerations and affections. My lords, these are the aristocracy of the country to whom I

allude. Reduce these men, and you inflict an irretrievable and an irreparable injury upon the country. Lower them in the scale, and you have deranged the social machine beyond the power of correction. God forbid that the successful manufacturer or that the princely merchant should not take his place among the landed aristocracy of the country! Such infusions add fresh vigour and power to that class of the community; but, depend upon it, if you sweep that class away at once, with all the associations attached to their names, their families, their histories, and the previous associations which belong to the character of their families, and substitute a new body of capitalists, to come amidst an unattached tenantry, and a neighbourhood where no associations are connected with their names, their moral influence and effect will be irretrievably lost."

The author of "In the days of the Dandies," in a recent number of 'Blackwood's Magazine,' gives a pleasant glimpse of London society about fifty years ago. After describing the *salons* of various highly gifted women, he concludes as follows: "Now, all that is departed; the publican and Jew have jostled the aristocracy off the stage of London life. It is the hour of the speculator, the schemer, the stockbroker. They reign supreme."

said about genealogy—in some instances, by clear-headed if not sound-hearted men. It has been satirically described as “the science of fools with long memories”; and it cannot be denied that the extravagant compilations of a certain class of genealogists have been admirably calculated to invest the subject with ridicule. It is a comfort to reflect, however, that, besides attracting the diligent study of a large number of eminent professional inquirers, genealogy has been warmly appreciated by not a few distinguished men of very different views and temperaments, whose energies were mainly devoted to pursuits of another kind. In addition to Sir Walter Scott, whose taste for pedigree was the natural associate of many kindred feelings, it is enough to mention the names of Cecil, Fuller, Hume, Franklin, Leibnitz, Gibbon, and Gray, by all of whom the Sentiment of Birth was keenly felt, if not openly acknowledged.

Unlike France and Italy, both England and Scotland are woefully deficient in good family memoirs. To confine ourselves to the north side of the Tweed, the number of such works is there extremely limited. Probably the most important are Hume of Godscroft’s ‘History of the House of Douglas,’ the quaint and homely ‘Memorie of the Somervilles’ (edited by Sir Walter Scott), and the late Lord Crawford’s ‘Lives of the Lindsays,’ which, in the opinion of an eloquent writer, “appears to unite, more happily than any other performance, the old sentiment of past days with the knowledge and clearness of the time in which we live—the heart of the fifteenth century with the eyes of the nineteenth.” As examples of less pretentious productions, we may specify Sir Richard Maitland’s ‘Chronicle of the House of Seytoun,’ and the ‘Genealogy of the House of Drummond,’ compiled in 1681 by the Hon. William Drummond, afterwards 1st Viscount of Strathallan, “A Friend to Vertue and the Family,” and printed in 1831,—both of which, especially the former, are no less remarkable for their honest and simple style than for their brevity and succinctness, in which respects they present a striking contrast to many of the elaborate genealogical compilations of recent times. Anderson’s ‘History of the House of Hamilton,’ and the Scottish portion of Mr Henry Drummond’s ‘Noble British Families,’ are other specimens of two very different modes of treatment, of which the latter presents some very admir-

able features. But the form of every Family History ought, of course, to depend on a variety of circumstances; and more especially on the comparative importance of the "House" illustrated, and the amount and quality of the available materials. The scope of such a work is defined by Mr Hannay to be "a full and connected view of a family with reference to its unity and character"; and the uses of proper Family Histories are thus ably indicated by the same writer.

"In the first place," he says, "they are excellent illustrations of general history, inasmuch as the history of a few families of a certain rank is the history of their whole times. Then they embody a vast number of those personal details and bits of local colour which help the narrator to describe an age, and the reader to feel as if he lived in it. They have a human, a tender, and a personal interest. Their poetic value is not to be forgotten,—that by which they enable us to trace character from generation to generation, and touch the mind with admiration or awe, as it watches the conduct of a high race in the varying events of successive ages. To the families themselves such histories are of the highest importance, and by them they ought to be treasured as were by the Romans those *laudationes*, some of which were extant in Cicero's time, and were used at family funerals, and which they preserved 'ad memoriam laudum domesticarum et ad illustrandam nobilitatem suam.'"¹

The family of Moncrieff cannot, of course, compete, in point of importance, with the Stewarts, the Douglasses, the Hamiltons, the Lindsays, and the other historical houses of Scotland. It has never taken any very prominent part in public affairs, and has only very recently found its way into the ranks of the peerage. But we ought to bear in mind that the exclusive appropriation of the term "Nobility" to the peerage is one of the many popular errors of modern times; and that, from the genuine genealogist's point of view, many an untitled English squire or Scottish laird has an infinitely better right to be regarded as noble than a large majority of the counts and barons on the continent of Europe. In his 'Constitutional History of England,' Bishop Stubbs makes some very instructive remarks on the character of English as contrasted with Continental nobility, pronouncing the former to be merely the nobility of

¹ 'Essays from the Quarterly Review,' p. 35. Niebuhr goes the length of asserting that where the principle of family tradition does not exist,

"the line which runs through the nation is made of sand."—'Lectures on the History of Rome' (by Schmitz), ii. 311.

hereditary counsellors of the crown, the right to that position being at one time involved in the tenure of land, at another in the fact of summons, at another in the terms of a patent—the result rather than the cause of peerage. “The English law,” he adds, “recognises simply the right of peerage, not the privilege of nobility, as properly understood; it recognises office, dignity, estate, and class, but not caste. . . . Social opinions and the rules of heraldry, which had perhaps their use in determining an international standard of blood, alone recognise the distinction.”

Although but recently ennobled, the House of Moncrieff can boast of three hereditary titles in the shape of baronetcies, of which the earliest was conferred on the principal line in the year 1626, the second on one of the junior branches about sixty years later, and the last in 1871, on an eminent living member of the family, who has since been raised to the peerage. Besides having specially distinguished themselves in connection with the religious and ecclesiastical history of Scotland, the Moncrieffs have, in several instances, attained highly honourable positions in other important fields. Speaking generally, they have been characterised by the consistent display of *Whig* principles, a watchful jealousy of the Crown, and a persistent hatred of Popery. Their tendency to adopt the Church as a profession is referred to by the Rev. Dr Walter Smith in an article on Norman Macleod in ‘Good Words’ for August 1872. “The Macleods,” he says, “were a clerical family, like the Moncrieffs, Bonars, and Burnses, who have all given three or four generations to the Scotch Kirk, and the old stock is still as fruitful as ever it was.”

From first to last their territorial possessions have been considerable, and they have been connected by marriage with some of the best families in the kingdom. While, in the main line, we find unions with the families of Dundas of that Ilk, Foreman of Luthrie, Murray of Balvaird, Oliphant Lord Oliphant, Moray of Abercairny, Beaton of Creich, and Murray Earl of Tullibardine, the cadets have intermarried with the Lundins of that Ilk, the Setons of Lathrisk, the Drummonds of Cultmalundie, the Skenes of Hallyards, the Campbells of Skerrington, the Liddells Lords Ravensworth, the Robertsons of Strowan, the Smythes of Methven, the Murrays of Ochtertyre, the Ramsays Earls of Dalhousie, the Hays Earls of Kinnoull,

the Crichtons of Strathurd, the Melvilles of Raith, the Clerks of Penicuick, the Lyons of Ogil, the Dundases of Duddingston, the Pringles of Whytbank, the Hallidays of Tullibole, the Wellwoods of Garvock, and the Dick-Cunynghams of Prestonfield. In like manner, the daughters of the House of Moncrieff have formed honourable alliances with the Campbells of Glenorchy, the Boswells of Balmuto, the Leslies Earls of Rothes, the Ruthvens of Freeland, the Rollos of Duncrub, the Stewarts of Grandtully, the Hays of Leys, the Barclays of Cullerny, the Murrays Lords Elibank, the Cheapes of Wellfield, the Maitlands Earls of Lauderdale, the Murrays Dukes of Athole, the Forbeses of Edinglassie, the Wards Earls of Dudley, the Muir-Mackenzies of Delvine, the Cunninghams of Bonnington, and the Lockharts of Lee.

The proverbial inaccuracy, not to say untruthfulness, of many modern genealogical works, is a very ugly feature in these days of boasted progress; and such is the resistless power of wealth, that all the supposed attributes of *status* can now be procured in the course of a week, including a historical name, a profusion of heraldic charges, an endless pedigree, and a gallery of family portraits! But, in the words of old Hudibras—

“’Tis not Antiquity nor Author
That makes truth truth, altho’ time’s daughter;
Nor does it follow ’cause a Herald
Can make a gentleman, scarce a year old,
To be descended of a race
Of ancient kings in a small space,
That we should all opinion hold
Authentick that we can make old.”

The extraordinary laxity that has latterly prevailed in Scotland in connection with matters of pedigree was, unfortunately, for some time encouraged by the lawfully constituted protectors of genealogical and heraldic rights, and has been repeatedly referred to by highly competent authorities as presenting a remarkable contrast to the rigorous practice of Continental nations. The most eminent legal antiquary of our own day—the late Mr John Riddell—frequently comments, in pretty severe terms, on the looseness of the procedure in question, the discussion of which he appears to have contemplated in a special treatise. In the preface to one

of his latest works he justly says that "true genealogy is an austere, stern potentate, governing by unswerving rigid laws, founded on truth only—knowing that thereby she can alone act with dignity and advantage; and not a reckless loose nymph or Bacchante, who, in her frolics, gives vent to every flattering tale and fable, to cajole and unduly elevate the credulous for her own profit and amusement of others, and to sallies of fancy and imagination."

It is impossible to conceive a more pitiable sham than an entirely fictitious ancestry. Hypocrisy is happily defined by La Rochefoucauld to be "the homage which vice pays to virtue," and false pedigree may be somewhat similarly described as the upstart's tribute of respect to the man of birth. An out-and-out genealogical fabrication, however, has this redeeming advantage, that its falsity is so palpable as to be capable of detection by the merest tyro in matters of pedigree. Not so, unfortunately, that more subtle concoction, of which a portion—sometimes a very limited one—is substantially, if not strictly, true, while the remainder is a tissue of invention so cunningly introduced as to render the separation of the wheat from the chaff a very difficult operation.¹

One of the principal causes of the difficulty in such cases is the imperfect condition of our older Parochial Records, to which reference is so often made in vain for the confirmation or the disproof of an alleged line of descent. It is consoling, however, to think that in the course of a few generations—thanks to the improved system of registration—it will be a comparatively easy matter to trace the various ramifications of our most numerous clans, and that cases of disputed succession and *ultimus hæres* will one day be things of the past. In that coming millennium, moreover, it will be difficult for any man of position to ignore his humble kinsmen; and possibly society may revert to the happier condition of more primitive times, when ties of blood were freely and openly acknowledged, regardless of the externals of rank and station. But notwithstanding the difficulty to which we have referred, there are many other sources of evidence which amply reward a patient investigation; and the absorbing interest of a

¹ "An error," says Amiel, "is the more dangerous in proportion to the degree of truth which it contains."

genealogical search sometimes casts the excitement of the fox-hunt and of the salmon-pool into the obscurest shade!¹ Such investigations, when intelligently pursued, not unfrequently lead to highly satisfactory results; although, on the other hand, it must be acknowledged that even a well-grounded belief occasionally terminates in the most bitter disappointment.

Like a considerable number of our principal Scottish surnames, that of Moncrieff is undoubtedly of territorial or local origin. It must be remembered, however, that, as a general rule, the names of places are older than the names of persons; and where a family and an estate happen to bear the same appellation, it may be pretty safely inferred that the place gave the name to the owner, and not the owner to the place. The Scottish mode of expression in such cases is not Moncrieff of Moncrieff, but Moncrieff "of that Ilk," which for centuries was the style of the main line of the family.

In accordance with the usual practice, the orthography of the surname has varied considerably, although not to the same remarkable extent as that of such names as Lindsay, Montgomerie, and Stirling. About a dozen different spellings appear to have been followed, nearly all of which are to be found in existing documents—viz., Moncrieff, Moncrieffe, Moncrief, Moncreiff, Moncreiffe, Moncreif, Moncriff, Moncrif, Moncrefe, Moncrif, Muncreff, and Muncrefe. The first of these forms is adopted by the families of Culfargie and Reidie, the fourth by the Tullibole branch, and the fifth by the line of junior baronets, now *territorially* "of that Ilk."

It appears, from the notice of the parish of Crieff in the 'New Statisti-

¹ "There is perhaps no pursuit so thoroughly absorbing as genealogy. The reason is this: No man having yet made out for himself an articulate pedigree from Adam—Sir Thomas Urquhart, the translator of Rabelais, to be sure, made one for himself, but he had his tongue in his cheek all the while—no clear pedigree going back to the first of men, every one, whether short or long, Celtic or Saxon, comes into the clouds at last. It is when a pedigree approaches extinction that the occasion opens for the genealogist to exercise his subtlety and skill, and his exertions become all the more zealous and exciting that he

knows he must be baffled somewhere. The pursuit is described as possessing something like the same absorbing influence which is exercised over certain minds by the higher mathematics. The devotees get to think that all human knowledge centres in their peculiar science and the cognate mysteries and exquisite scientific manipulations of heraldry, and they may be heard talking with compassionate contempt of some one so grossly ignorant as not to know a bar-dexter from a bend-sinister, or who asks what is meant by a cross potent quadrate party per pale."—Burton's 'Book-Hunter,' edition of 1882, p. 318.

cal Account of Scotland,' that the name is derived by some from the Gaelic word *craobh*, a tree; while others consider that it comes from *crubha cnoic*, the haunch or side of the hill on which the town of Crieff is situated. According to Colonel Robertson, "mon" is an English contraction of the Gaelic word *monadh*, which signifies a hill, Moncrieff being a corruption of *monadh-craoibbe*, or the wooded hill. He also states that, in the year 728, a victory was gained by Angus M'Fergus, King of the Picts, at the base of the hill of Moncrieff, which is called "the battle of Moncrieff" in the translation of the 'Annals of Ulster.'¹ Like Pinkerton, however, we are disposed to believe in the plastic powers of Gaelic etymology, of which it has been said that it "may be made to mean anything and everything, according to the fancy of the person who employs it."

A large proportion of our principal Scottish surnames are still very much confined to certain localities. The most casual observer must have been struck with the predominance of the Macdonalds, the Mackenzies, the Robertsons, and the Stewarts in the north; the Campbells, the Camerons, the Macleans, and the Kennedys in the west; the Grants, the Gordons, the Forbeses, and the Ogilvys in the east; and the Scotts, the Kers, the Johnstons, and the Maxwells in the south. The comparatively small clan of the Moncrieffs has long been chiefly located in the south-east corner of Perthshire and the adjoining county of Fife—the remote insular shire of Shetland being the only other portion of the kingdom in which the surname appears to be at all prevalent. The following table, prepared from the general indices to the Births and Deaths registered in Scotland during the five years ending 1867, indicates the local distribution of the surname of

¹ Gaelic Topography of Scotland, p. 452. The right of Alpin to the Pictish throne seems to have been fiercely contested. In the Annals of Tighernac, two battles are recorded under the year 728. The first is the "battle of Moncrieff (*Monaigh craibh*), in Strathearn, between the *Piccardach* (Picts) themselves. Angus and Alpin fought that battle, and the victory was with Angus, and the son of Alpin was slain there, and Angus took his power." The other battle took place at the Castle of Belief (*Caislen Creadhi*), or

Scone, when the victory was again against Alpin, and Nechtan obtained the kingdom of the Picts. —Fordun's Chronicle: Historians of Scotland, iv., xliii. and 405. The late Sir Thomas Moncreiffe informed Colonel Moncrieff and the author, in 1872, that whenever he happened to dig in his park he found human remains; and that the area in which they occurred was much too extensive for an ordinary place of sepulture. The sanguinary conflict in the year 728 fully accounts for the discoveries.

Moncrieff. It will be observed that, taking the Births and Deaths together, the counties in which it most frequently occurs are Shetland, Perth, and Fife, which collectively furnish considerably more than one half of the total number. The three counties next in order are Forfar, Lanark, and Edinburgh, in each of which, however, it must be remembered that there are large towns—Dundee, Glasgow, and Edinburgh; and accordingly, the numbers pertaining to these shires cannot be considered so indicative of local connection as those of the more purely rural counties. The number of Births and Deaths in each of the other six counties embraced in the table is too insignificant to lead to any safe conclusion; but it is curious to find that, even including these very limited numbers, the surname does not appear in any of the remaining counties of Scotland—amounting to about two-thirds of the entire number—during the five years in question.¹

COUNTIES.	BIRTHS.						DEATHS.						Total Births and Deaths.
	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	Total.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	Total.	
Shetland	3	5	5	1	9	23	2	0	4	1	2	9	32
Perth	3	5	2	4	3	17	2	4	3	4	2	15	32
Fife	1	2	2	1	2	8	3	4	4	3	5	19	27
Forfar	3	0	4	2	2	11	1	2	2	4	0	9	20
Lanark	2	5	1	2	3	13	1	0	2	2	1	6	19
Edinburgh	3	2	2	1	0	8	1	1	0	1	0	3	11
Haddington	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	2	1	2	6	8
Renfrew	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	3	2	0	5	8
Argyll	0	0	1	1	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	2	5
Aberdeen	1	1	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	2	5
Stirling	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
Ayr	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	17	20	19	15	23	94	12	12	21	20	12	77	171

Relatively to the total number of deaths in Scotland during the same

¹ It is believed that the Indices pertaining to more recent years would furnish very similar results.

period, the Moncrieffs would appear to amount to rather less than 700 persons; but the births may certainly be regarded as a truer criterion, and accordingly, taking these events as the basis of comparison, the actual strength of the clan is probably not more than 550. In the case of no fewer than 158 of the 171 births and deaths embraced in the table (92 per cent), Moncrieff is the orthography adopted—the single *f* (Moncrief) appearing five times, and the final *e* eight times—viz., five times in the form of *icffe* and thrice in that of *ciffe*. The spelling followed by the Tullibole branch (Moncreiff) does not present itself during the five years in question.

The principal territorial designations of the Moncrieffs have been Moncrieff (or that Ilk), Culfargie, Tippermalloch, Wester Rhynd, and Easter-Moncrieff, in Perthshire; Carnbee, Balcaskie, Randerston, Reidie, and Sauchope, in Fife; Tullibole in Kinross-shire; and Rapness in Orkney.

Like many other Scottish families, the Moncrieffs appear to have made their mark on the continent of Europe as well as in America. “Dans le ‘Recherche de la Noblesse Champagne,’ par D’Hozier, on retrouve la généalogie et les armes de six familles signalées comme venue d’Ecosse: celles de Berey, D’Handresson, de Locart, de *Monterif*, de Tournebulle, et du Val-Dampiere. . . . La Maison de Monterif portait d’or au lion de gueules, armé et lampassé d’azur, au chef d’hermine (Pl. xliii.)”¹

In the library of Mr Bruce Gardyne of Middleton is a beautiful copy of a new edition, in four volumes 12mo, published at Paris in 1768, of ‘Œuvres de Monsieur de Monrif, Lecteur de la Reine, l’un des quarante de l’Académie Française et de celle des Sciences et Belles Lettres de Nancy et de Berlin,’ with a portrait of the author (*François Augustin de Moncrif*), and other illustrations. The work embraces a series of Essays, Discourses, Dissertations, Letters, Poems, and Songs, on philosophical, moral, and religious subjects.²

From the following passages relative to the siege of Savannah, in September 1779, in the ninth chapter of “Les Français en Amérique pendant la Guerre de l’Indépendance des États-Unis, 1777-1783, par Thomas Balch” (Paris, 1872), it would appear that the present representative of the

¹ ‘Les Écossais en France,’ par Francisque-Michel, i. 242.

² See ‘Quarterly Review,’ xi. 413, for a notice of the author’s longevity

family of Culfargie is not the first Moncrieff who has distinguished himself in connection with guns and fortifications :—

“Plusieurs centaines de nègres, sous la direction du major Moncrief, perfectionnaient chaque jour les ouvrages de la ville. Ce ne fut que le 23 (septembre) au soir que les Français et les Américains ouvrirent la tranchée.

“. . . Pendant le jour de la sommation, il n'y avait pas dix canons de montés sur les lignes de Savannah. Aussi la défense de cette place fit elle le plus grand honneur au général Prévost, au lieutenant-colonel Maitland et au major Moncrief. Celui-ci mit une telle activité dans les préparatifs de défense, qu'en quelques jours il avait mis plus de quatre-vingts canons en batterie.”

The following statements relative to Lieut.-Col. Moncrief, R.E., are taken from Conolly's ‘Sappers and Miners,’ and probably relate to the Major Moncrief referred to by Balch :—

“Lieut.-Col. James Moncrief commanded a corps at Gosport in 1787-9.

“He was present at the experiments of Bagshot Heath in 1792, and constructed there a wooden redoubt, which was blown up.

“He had distinguished himself in the American War, and in 1793 commanded a corps in the Low Countries, under the Duke of York.

“In 1793, Captain Sutherland, R.E., was his colleague at the siege of Valenciennes.

“Moncrief, then chief engineer, was wounded at Dunkirk, in the same year, on 6th Sept., and died a few days afterwards at Ostend.

“Major-General Twiss, C.M.E., Southern District, had additional casemates formed at Dover.

“It will be remembered that the chain of small forts bearing the names of Moncrief, Twiss, and Sutherland, are all in the vicinity of Hythe; and it seems not improbable that General Twiss had the first and third of the above-named forts called after those officers who had distinguished themselves in the Netherlands.”

Besides the notices of the Moncrieffs in Douglas's ‘Baronage of Scotland’ and Playfair's ‘British Family Antiquity,’ there is a manuscript

account of the family, extending to nine folio pages, in the first of two volumes in the Advocates' Library, entitled, 'General Collections concerning Families in Scotland, extracted from the MS. Accounts, Inventories of Writs, etc., of several Families in that Kingdom,' and bearing the date of 1750 on the title-page. These pedigrees are described as "Excerpts from the General Collections of Mr Martin of Clermont," who died about the year 1703. George Martin of Clermont was at one time secretary to Archbishop Sharp (who married a daughter of Moncrieff of Randerston), and towards the end of his life he filled the office of Commissary of St Andrews. He was the author of a well-known work entitled '*Reliquiæ Divi Andreae*'; and, according to Sir Robert Sibbald, he was "a learned historian and a diligent antiquary."¹ Its statements correspond, in almost every particular, with an old MS. Genealogical Tree in the possession of Colonel Moncrieff of Culfargie, of which a tabular transcript is given in the Appendix. Towards the end of the notice, however, the following passage occurs: "Sir John is now dead without issue, and so that antient and honourable family is now quite extinguished, as are also these other cadets of it—to wit, Easter Moncreif, Colfargie, Wester Rind, and Kintullo. Only Tippermallo stands, and is well." Culfargie and Kintillo are here spoken of as two different cadets, whereas the later line of Culfargie was nothing more than a continuation of the earlier line of Kintillo. So far as that family is concerned, the statement relative to its extinction is quite erroneous, as will afterwards appear. The Culfargie Tree appears to have been compiled in or before 1674, as it represents Sir John Moncrieff, second baronet, as the holder of the title, his younger brothers being simply described as "David" and "James." Sir John died in 1674.

An advertisement relative to the '*Baronage of Scotland*,' by Sir Robert Douglas, appeared towards the end of the year 1767; but the work was not published in an entire form till 1798—a few years after the author's death. The advertisement bears that, "as several of the subscribers wished to have the work delivered in numbers, it is proposed to give it in that way to such as choose it," and that "it will consist of twenty

¹ '*History of Fife and Kinross*,' p. 241.

numbers of ten sheets (or forty pages) each." ¹ It appears, however, that ultimately the first 404 pages of the 'Baronage' were published in 1770; the second portion, up to page 562, in 1778; and the entire work, embracing the third and concluding part, with Index and Preface (as already stated), in 1798. The account of the family of Moncrieff extends from page 43 to page 48, and was accordingly embraced in the first instalment, published in 1770. In the advertisement already referred to, a special request is made respecting the transmission of "writs" and "vouchers" by those gentlemen who had not yet given an account of their families; and the following passage occurs in the preface to the 'Baronage':—

"The late Sir Robert Douglas, author of the 'Peerage of Scotland,' commenced the present work. If he had lived to finish it, he would have accomplished an important *desideratum* in the history of Scotland. It has fallen to the lot of the present editors to carry forward an undertaking which the death of Sir Robert had interrupted. . . . In a work of this nature it is obvious that the editors cannot be responsible for the accuracy in every particular of the memorials which they publish. No gentleman, they are confident, would communicate information which, to the best of his knowledge, was not accurate and true. They have, however, uniformly taken every precaution in their power to be assured of the authenticity of what they advance; and as they mean to proceed and complete the undertaking in an additional volume, or more if necessary, they request that in the communications with which they hope to be favoured reference may always be made to authorities, where that can be done. Should there be any defects or inaccuracies in this volume, they will be glad to receive such information as may enable them to correct these in an appendix to the next." ²

Although it cannot be denied that both the Peerage and the Baronage of Sir Robert Douglas are by no means free from the errors and inaccuracies incidental to all such publications, unlike many of the compilers of more recent works of a similar kind, the author appears to have made no inconsiderable efforts to procure authentic documentary information regarding most of the pedigrees which he published. He frequently refers to the "supposed" descendants of younger sons and others, but refrains from embracing them in his pages on account of the absence of proper evidence.

¹ 'Analecta Scotica,' ii. 32.

² The contemplated continuation was never published, and the materials collected for the

purpose fell into the hands of Mr David Constable, at the sale of whose library they were purchased by the Faculty of Advocates.

A comparatively recent writer says : " In many respects, the ' Baronage of Scotland ' is a valuable work, and every allowance should be made for its author and his inaccuracies, when we consider the haste with which his book was compiled, its imperfect state at his death, the difficulty of getting at many valuable materials then only existing in MS., but now printed and indexed, and the general loose views as to the necessity for exactness in genealogical inquiry in that day, now happily dispelled." ¹

It can easily be shown that Douglas's account of the House of Moncrieff is incorrect in several very important particulars. Thus, he summarily states that Alexander, youngest son of William Moncrieff of that Ilk, by his wife Margaret Murray of Balvaird, " died without issue," while, in point of fact, he was the founder of the family of Kintillo, afterwards of Culfargie, now represented by Colonel Moncrieff. Again, he says that on the death of Sir Hugh Moncrieff of Tippermalloch, fifth Baronet of the creation of 1626, in the year 1742,² the title " appears to have devolved " upon Sir William Moncreiffe, fourth Baronet of the later creation of 1685, and ancestor of the present Sir Robert Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe, " as next heir male." We shall afterwards see, however, that this supposition was altogether erroneous, as it implied the extinction of all the male descendants of the father, grandfather, and great-grandfather of the first Baronet of 1626. Regarding one of these lines of descent, indeed, Douglas makes a very special statement. In referring to the younger sons of William Moncrieff, the younger, of that Ilk, by his wife Jean Oliphant, he says of David that he married the heiress of Balcaskie, " but we can give no account of his posterity." Sir William, he continues, " is also said to have had another son, Mr Archibald Moncreiff, who was minister of Abernethy in Perthshire, and progenitor of Mr William Moncreiff, minister of Blackford, who, upon the death of Sir Hugh of Tubbermallo, claimed the Baronetship, but as we can find no documents to prove his succession, we cannot here deduce his descent." It ought to be borne in mind that this statement was published within twenty-six years of the death of Sir Hugh Moncrieff of Tippermalloch in 1744 ; and so far as we are aware, no intimation of the existence of the desiderated documents is to

¹ ' Herald and Genealogist,' vii. 423.

² A mistake for 1744.

be found among the materials solicited and contributed for the correction and continuation of the 'Baronage' to which we have already referred.

In the eighth volume of Playfair's 'British Family Antiquity,' embracing the Baronetage of Scotland, and published in the year 1811, there is an elaborate notice of the Moncreiff family under the head of "Moncreiff Wellwood," which is said to be "given on the authority of a manuscript account of the family of Moncreiff, written upwards of a hundred years ago [*i.e.*, before 1711], in the possession of Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood. It was written by one whose certain knowledge reached back to about the middle of the seventeenth century. In all essential particulars it agrees with the documents on record, and *supplies chasms* with regard to facts of less importance." We shall afterwards have occasion to make some remarks on this extraordinary statement. The same volume contains a short account of Sir Robert Moncreiffe's family, at the commencement of which it is correctly stated that although designated "of that Ilk," "they are but a younger branch of the original stock already delineated in the article of Wellwood-Moncreiff" above referred to. In the Introduction to the 'Baronetage,' the author says with reference to the records of private families: "Precision of circumstance is, in certain cases, a good cause for suspicion of fabrication, though in others it is the test of truth and reality. In recent and ordinary transactions, such as come to trial in courts of justice, precision is deemed highly important towards ascertaining truth: it is therefore the common, though clumsy, expedient of those who wish to impose on the world to deck out their fictions with circumstantial and minute detail; but this expedient has very seldom succeeded." Again, in the "concluding address" to "a generous and enlightened public," at the end of the same volume, the laborious investigation and strict impartiality of the proprietors of 'British Family Antiquity' are circumstantially set forth in the following grandiloquent terms:—

"With respect to the work in question, it would be going too far to say that it is free from error, particularly when it is considered that the information derived from upwards of thirteen hundred families must, in many instances, have been of a nature which it was impossible for the proprietors to correct by any other authorities to which they could possibly have access; at the same time, they pledge them-

selves that all information thus derived has been collated as far as possible with other existing authorities, and that whenever any discordance has appeared, it has either been corrected when that could be done, or so expressly noted that those particularly interested in its authenticity may always examine the various facts as stated, and exercise their own judgment in their arrangement. . . . Throughout the whole body of the work, it has been their constant study, both in public and in private detail, to avoid everything which might look like an undue partiality, either to families or parties. In the Scottish department this has been more particularly attended to, from a conviction that the family and clannish feuds which, from circumstances unavoidable, had so long distracted that country, must in many instances have given a tinge to family details, even in the most unprejudiced breasts. As far as was consistent with historical truth, they have avoided all such observations: not that even in a single instance they have met with observations which could justly be termed invidious; but from a just fear that particular claims of superiority, though insignificant in themselves, and unnecessary in this work, might, if mentioned on slight authority, have excited an unnecessary rivalry. At the same time, wherever such claims required notice, as illustrative of public affairs or of private rights, they have invariably been inserted. Still, however, it is not impossible that some of their numerous readers may object to particular passages. In such cases, then, they must premise that they are no further accountable for the sentiments expressed than in having done justice to the various claimants by stating their different pretensions, but without unnecessarily hazarding opinions as coming from themselves—opinions which they, as general biographers, cannot have been supposed qualified to decide on. In such cases, ‘truth regulated by candour’ has always been their motto.”

So much for the opinions and professions of the author and proprietors of ‘British Family Antiquity.’ It unfortunately happens, however, that Mr William Playfair’s reputation as a genealogist is not of the highest order. An accomplished legal antiquary (the late Mr James Maidment) makes the following observations regarding him in his preface to the ‘*Liber Conventus S. Catherine Senensis prope Edinburgum*,’ printed by the Abbotsford Club in 1841:—

“The fair lady who became proprietor of the estates of Grange and Sciennes is said by Playfair, *a wholesale manufacturer of pedigrees*, to have been a daughter of ‘—— Macmath, an opulent merchant in Edinburgh, descended of the ancient family of the Macmaths of that Ilk,’ and to have married, in 1637, William, third son of William Dick of Braid, from whom he got in patrimony Saint Giles’ Grange and the lands of Schenes, by charter dated 6th January 1645. If this be true, the husband must have given the lands to his wife, otherwise William Dick the

younger would not have had occasion to serve heir to her instead of his father. But be this as it may, we should have been much gratified if Mr Playfair had informed us of the *precise* degree of connection of this gentleman, without a Christian name, with the 'ancient' Macmath, or where the estate of 'Macmath' was situated. Such minute facts were, it is presumed, beneath the notice of so magnificent a genealogist. Where, too, did he ascertain that this person was an *opulent* merchant in Edinburgh, according to the proper meaning of the term? These assertions are supported by no authorities; and in the absence of anything like proof, we may be forgiven in distrusting the mere assertion of one *so notoriously inaccurate* as the author, or rather compiler, of the nine dull and ponderous tomes going under the denomination of 'British Family Antiquity.'"

At a very early age the author of 'British Family Antiquity' evinced a strong predilection for mechanical science; and even after he had turned his attention to literary pursuits, he obtained a series of patents for various useful inventions. Like his more distinguished brother John, professor of mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, he was the author of a vast number of works—probably not fewer than a hundred—on a great variety of topics, including finance, reform, commerce, history, statistics, and political economy. The earliest of these was published in the year 1785, when Playfair was about twenty-six years of age; and it was hardly to be expected that the ingenious mechanic and prolific miscellaneous writer would prove much of an adept in the mysteries of genealogy, when he resolved to add that very special subject to his catalogue of studies in the evening of his life. We have no desire to magnify either the importance or the difficulty of genealogical investigations; but few men of fifty could reasonably hope to prosecute such inquiries with satisfactory results unless they had previously attained some experience in the same field.

The 'Fasti Ecclesiæ Scoticanæ' of the late Rev. Dr Hew Scott of Anstruther-Wester contains several genealogical particulars relative to some of the numerous Moncreiffs who have held benefices in the Church of Scotland; and in reply to a communication which we addressed to the author soliciting information as to his authority for these particulars, he distinctly states, in a letter dated 20th August 1870, that they were "taken from Playfair." He also says: "The family of Moncreiff-Wellwood I have been told and have always understood to have been drawn up in Play-

fair's 'Baronetage' by the late Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood, minister of St Cuthbert's. As to Playfair's own work, I have never considered it more than *very poor authority*, yet confided in it when supported by such authority as my old venerated and respected pastor, Sir Henry."¹

The statements of Mr Maidment and Dr Scott may be regarded as *professional* opinions of Playfair's genealogical reputation. The estimate formed by the highest section of a "generous and enlightened public," of the first five of his "ponderous tomes," may be gathered from the following excerpt from a letter addressed by Lord Webb Seymour to Miss Berry in July 1809:—

"I hope you will congratulate Playfair for me and for yourself upon his late grand publication—a 'Peerage,' in five volumes, at ten guineas a volume. Lord Galloway, whom I met at Brighthelmstone, makes it a rule never to subscribe to any book, but an application some time ago from a person of the name of Playfair—a name, too, followed by sundry scientific titles and dignities—induced him to relax his rule in favour of the *celebrated Edinburgh Professor*, who declared that he was going to enlighten the world by his speculations on gules, argent, and lions rampant, and addressed himself to different peers for their patronage, as well as for private sources of information. At length the work appeared, and I found Lord Galloway grievously disappointed by the trifling stuff and fulsome flattery with which the production of this profound man abounded. His brother, Edward Stewart, had indeed ventured to raise a doubt whether it was the Edinburgh Professor who was the author of the work, and I was appealed to for the decision of the question. The book, it seemed, was a bad one, so I denied that our friend had any concern in it; but had peers and pedigrees been properly treated, of course I should have felt it a point of delicacy to refer to better authority before I stripped off at a blow the reputation to be derived from five ten-guinea volumes."²

The three accounts of the 'House of Moncrieff' given by Martin, Douglas, and Playfair, differ in several important particulars, as will be seen from an examination of the tabular transcripts in the Appendix; but from a careful comparison of their contents, and with the aid of documentary

¹ "Assertions as to fact are often made in perfectly good faith, but with absolutely no foundation."—From Lord Coleridge's paper in 'Principal Shairp and his Friends,' by Professor Knight.

² 'Journals and Correspondence of Miss Berry'

(1865), ii. 386. Miss Berry's high opinion of the "Edinburgh Professor" will be found at p. 67 of vol. iii. She does not appear to have been aware that he was the brother of the author of 'British Family Antiquity.'

and other trustworthy evidence, we hope to present, in the following pages, a tolerably accurate genealogy of the main line of the family, as well as of most of the principal branches.

The following is a summary of the principal discrepancies in the pedigrees already referred to :—

1. Playfair, following the Culfargie Tree and Martin's MS., gives four generations before Matthew, with whom Douglas begins, and who is said to have flourished about the year 1248. He, however, makes Matthew the nephew and son-in-law of Roger, instead of the son, as in the Tree and MS.

2. While the Tree and Martin make Matthew the father of Malcolm, both Douglas and Playfair interpose four generations—viz., John, William, Duncan, and John.

3. According to Douglas, George Moncreiff of Tippermalach (or Tubbermallo), second son of Malcolm Moncreiff of that Ilk, died without issue, while Playfair continues his descendants to his great-great-grandson, William Moncreiff of Tippermalach, who is said to have died without issue about 1655. In the Tree and Martin's MS., George is made second son of Sir John Moncreiff of that Ilk, and *grandson* of Sir Malcolm; but in both his descendants are substantially the same as in Playfair. In like manner, the same authorities make Matthew, ancestor of the family of Easter Moncreiff, the third son of Sir John and grandson of Sir Malcolm, while both Douglas and Playfair make him Sir Malcolm's *son*.

4. The earliest specified marriage in all the pedigrees is that of Malcolm Moncreiff of that Ilk, whose wife was Catharine (Anna?) Murray, of the family of Tullibardine. Both Douglas and Playfair agree in the wives assigned to each of his six direct descendants, of whom the last is Sir John Moncreiff of that Ilk, created Baronet in 1626. Martin, however, following the Tree, makes Margaret Levingstoune of Easter Wemyss the wife of Sir John of that Ilk, who is said by Douglas and Playfair to have married Beatrix Forman; and he also interpolates (as in the Tree) a Sir William, with Beatrix Graham as his wife, between the last-mentioned Sir John and William of that Ilk, who married Margaret Murray of Balvaird. (As afterwards stated, a much earlier marriage than that of

Malcolm is ascertained from a charter at Moncreiffe—viz., that of Matthew, with whom Douglas begins the pedigree.)

5. While Playfair assigns only one younger son to Sir John Moncreiff of that Ilk and Beatrix Forman—viz., John Moncreiff of Rapness, ancestor of Sir Robert Moncreiffe, now of Moncreiffe—Douglas gives him *two*—viz. :

(1.) Hugh Moncreiff of Tubbermallo, whose male descendants he carries down for five generations to Sir Hugh Moncreiff of Tubbermallo, fifth Baronet of the creation of 1626, who died unmarried in 1742 (or rather in 1744).

(2.) John Moncreiff of Kinmouth and Rapness, ancestor of Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, as in Playfair. Only one younger son is assigned in the Tree and Martin's MS. to Sir John of that Ilk and Margaret Levingstone (corresponding with Sir John and Beatrix Forman of Douglas and Playfair)—viz., John, "ancestor of the family of Wester Rind."

6. According to Douglas, Hugh Moncreiff, one of the younger brothers of Sir John Moncreiff of that Ilk, first Baronet, died without issue; while Playfair makes him father of Sir John Moncreiff of Tippermalach, who assumed the Baronetcy on the death of Sir James Moncreiff in 1698, and grandfather of Sir Hugh, who died in 1744. In Playfair's pedigree, Hugh Moncreiff of Kirkton of Malar, *uncle* of the first Baronet, is said to have died without issue.

7. Douglas erroneously states that Alexander, youngest son of William Moncreiff of that Ilk and Margaret Murray of Balvaird, "died without issue"; while Playfair correctly makes him the "ancestor of the Moncreiffs of Kintillo, afterwards of Culfargie and Barnhill," as set forth in the Tree and Martin's MS.

8. Playfair gives six sons to William Moncreiff of that Ilk and Jean Oliphant, making Archibald, minister of Abernethy, the *second*, and continuing his descendants to Sir Harry Moncreiff-Wellwood, grandfather of the present Lord Moncreiff. Douglas, on the other hand, gives him only two sons—viz., William of that Ilk, and David, who married the heiress of Balcaskie. He states, however, that William Moncreiff of that Ilk, who married Jean Oliphant, "is also said to have had another son, Mr Archibald

Moncreiff, who was minister at Abernethy in Perthshire, and progenitor of Mr William Moncreiff, minister of Blackford, who, upon the death of Sir Hugh of Tubbermallo, claimed the Baronetship; but as we can find no documents to prove his succession, we cannot here deduce his descent." In Martin's MS., Archibald Moncreiff, minister of Abernethy, appears as the *fifth* son of Sir William of that Ilk and Jean Oliphant, with two sons, who are both said to have had issue—viz., Archibald, also minister of Abernethy, and George, minister of Arngask. He occupies the same place in the Tree, where, however, nothing is said about his sons.

9. Playfair, following Martin, inserts an additional brother—Sir David—as Baronet, between Sir John, second Baronet, and Sir James; thus making Sir James fourth Baronet, while according to Douglas he was third.

10. Douglas gives the baronetcy of 1626, on the death of Sir Hugh Moncreiff of Tubbermallo in 1742 (1744), to Sir William Moncreiff, fourth baronet of the creation of 1685, on the erroneous supposition that all the male descendants of William Moncreiff of that Ilk and Margaret Murray of Balvaird had failed; while Playfair gives the title to William Moncreiff, minister of Blackford, the alleged descendant of Archibald Moncreiff, minister of Abernethy, above referred to.

11. The other discrepancies are of a comparatively minor character.



THE MONCRIEFFS OF THAT ILK.



As already stated, all the Moncrieff pedigrees, except that given by Sir Robert Douglas, insert four generations before Matthew de Moncrieff, who is said to have flourished about the middle of the thirteenth century—viz. :

I. RAYMERUS (or RAMERUS) MONCRIEFF, who lived, according to Playfair, between 1107 and 1124, and who is said to have held the office of Keeper of the Wardrobe in the household of Alexander I. The date under his name in the Culfargie Tree is not very legible, but is probably intended for either 1138 or 1158. Raymerus was father of—

II. GASPERUS MONCRIEFF, who, according to Playfair, had two other sons, besides his successor—

III. GERARD MONCRIEFF. According to the same authority, Gerard had five sons, of whom three died in their father's lifetime, while the fourth was Roger, and the fifth John (?), the father of Matthew, who is said, "in the private memorials of the family," to have married his first cousin, Roger's only daughter. Gerard's successor appears to have been—

IV. ROGER MONCRIEFF, who, in his turn, was succeeded by his nephew and son-in-law—

V. MATTHEW MONCRIEFF of that Ilk, with whom Douglas begins the pedigree. Matthew appears to have obtained a charter from Sir Roger de Mowbray of the lands of Moncrieff and Balconachin, which were erected into a free barony by a subsequent charter from Alexander II. in 1248; and, three years later, he got a charter of confirmation of the same lands and barony from Alexander III., who ascended the Scottish throne in 1249. These three charters are in the possession of Sir Robert Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe.

The wife of Matthew Moncrieff was Marjory, sister of "John of Dundemor," as appears from an undated charter, among the Moncreiffe muniments, of the lands of Upper and Nether Dunbeirach, &c., granted by the said John of Dundemor to Matthew and Marjory.¹ According to the Culfargie Tree and Martin's MS., Matthew's son and successor was Sir Malcolm, while both Douglas and Playfair, as already indicated, interpose no fewer than four generations between Matthew and Malcolm, making the son and successor of the former—



VI. (Sir) JOHN MONCRIEFF of that Ilk, who is said to have been compelled to swear allegiance to Edward I. of England in the year 1296, when he is designed "Dominus Johannes de Moncrieff, Chevalier."²

¹ In the Appendix to Dr Laing's valuable 'History of Lindores and Newburgh' (pp. 433-435) are some interesting particulars relative to the ancient family of Dundemore of that Ilk, afterwards Dunmore or Dunmuir, in the parish of Abdie, the name being derived from the Gaelic words *dun* and *more* = the great dun or fort. John of Dundemore, whose sister married Matthew Moncrieff of that Ilk, was one of the regents of Alexander III. in his minority, 1249-62. In the year 1260 he had a controversy with the monks of the Isle of May relative to the lands of Turbrech in Fife, which was finally settled by his relinquish-

ing his claims under a series of curious conditions, which are duly set forth in the Records of the Priory of the Isle of May. In 1507, by a charter under the great seal, "James IV. bestowed the west half of Dinmuir [Dunmuir] or Nether Dinmuir, now called Ayton [and the property of Mr Carnegie of Stronvar], on Andrew Ayton, captain of the Castle of Stirling, of the family of Ayton in the Merse, for good and faithful services."—Sibbald's 'History of Fife,' p. 409.

² "Historical and Critical Remarks on the Ragman Roll," Nisbet's 'Heraldry,' end of vol. ii.

Like his predecessor Matthew, he obtained a charter of confirmation of the lands of Moncrieff from Alexander III. Sir John Moncrieff appears to have been twice married, but unfortunately only the *Christian* names of his wives have been preserved. About the year 1294, in a charter witnessed, among others, by Roger de Mowbray and Petronella de Moncryf, "Sir John Moncreif, Lord of that Ilk, grants half a chalder of barley, half a chalder of oats, and four bolls of wheat to the Preaching Friars of Perth, out of the tenement of Moncreif, for their sustentation, and that for the weal of his own soul and the souls of his father and mother, his heirs, his wife *Annabella*, *Alice* his former wife, and their children, and all the faithful dead." According to both Douglas and Playfair, he had two sons—

1. (Sir) William, his heir; 2. Sir Ralph.

Sir John is said to have died towards the very end of the thirteenth century, when he was succeeded by his eldest son—

VII. (Sir) WILLIAM MONCRIEFF of that Ilk, who is mentioned in Matthew of Westminster's history, along with his brother Ralph and other Scottish lords and barons, as having entered England in the year 1296 and burned certain houses (*villas*). His name also appears in the "Remarks on the Ragman Roll." Sir William died at the end of the reign of King Robert Bruce (cir. 1328), and was succeeded by his son—

VIII. (Sir) DUNCAN MONCRIEFF of that Ilk, of whom nothing appears to be recorded except that he and his wife both died in the year 1357, and were buried together in the church of Moncrieff. Duncan's son and successor was—

IX. (Sir) JOHN MONCRIEFF, designed "*Dominus ejusdem*" in a charter of Sir Robert Mayners, knight, to the Monastery of Dunfermline, confirmed by King David II. in 1360. He is said to have died at an advanced age, about the year 1410, leaving issue a son and successor—

X. (Sir) MALCOLM MONCRIEFF of that Ilk, who, in 1456, was appointed one of the Judges or Lords of Council of King James II. "*Malcolmus de Muncreyfe*" is mentioned in the list of jurors in the Retour of William of Striueline as heir of his father in the lands of Redgortoun, 29th April 1432;¹ and "*Malcholmus Muncrefe de eodem*" occurs in the

¹ Fraser's 'Stirlings of Keir,' p. 211.

assise "proborum et fide dignorum virorum" specified in the agreement between William Abbot of Cupar and Thomas Stewart of Grandtully concerning the marches of Murthly and Kyn-tully, 10th July 1449.¹ He married Catherine (Anna ?) Murray,² of the family of Tullibardine, by whom, according to both Douglas and Playfair, he had three sons—

1. (Sir) John, his successor.
2. George Moncrieff of Tippermalloch (or Tubbermallo).
3. Matthew Moncrieff, first of the family of Easter Moncrieff, "of whom several families of the name of Moncrieff are descended."



In the old church of Moncrieff is a large monumental slab indicating the burial-place of Sir Malcolm's wife. It bears the remains of an impaled escutcheon, now almost entirely effaced, which doubtless contained the rampant lion of Moncrieff and the three stars of Murray, with the following surrounding inscription in fine old English characters :
 HIC · IACET · ANNA (?) · MVRRAY · QVÖDÄ · [VXOR · DOMINI ·] MALCOMI ·
 [DE · MONCRIEFF · QVÆ · OBIIT ·] . . .
 A^o. DOM · M·CCCC·L·VIII.

Sir Malcolm died about the year 1465, when he was succeeded by his eldest son—

XI. (Sir) JOHN MONCRIEFF of that Ilk, who, in his father's lifetime, got a charter under the Great Seal, dated 1464, of the lands of Auchindane in Fife. About two years later he obtained another charter from King James III.—Johanni Moncrieff de eodem—of the lands of Gilchriston or Gilgristoun (now Kilgraston) and others. He married Beatrix, daughter of (Sir) Archibald Dundas of that Ilk, by whom he



¹ Fraser's 'Red Book of Grandtully,' i. 15.

family of Murray is a remarkable circumstance

² The frequency of intermarriage with the in the Moncrieff genealogy.

had, according to Douglas, one son and two daughters, and, according to Playfair, two sons¹—

1. Sir John, his heir.
 2. Hugh Moncrieff, who got a charter of the lands of Pitgorno, co. Fife, in 1506, and married Janet Ochiltree.
- 1st daughter, Isabel, married to Sir William Scott of Balwearie, and had issue.
- 2d, Elizabeth, married to Patrick Hay of Leys.



Sir John died before 1477,² and was succeeded by his son—

XII. Sir JOHN MONCRIEFF of that Ilk, who got a charter under the Great Seal of the lands and barony of Moncrieff in the year 1495. According to Douglas and Playfair, he married Beatrix Forman of Luthrie (according to the Tree and Martin's MS., Margaret, daughter of Levingstoune of Easter Wemyss³), and got two other charters of certain

other lands to himself and Beatrix Forman his spouse, dated between 1501 and 1511, in which he is designated "Dominus de eodem, miles." "John of Muncreff of that Ilk" occurs as one of the arbiters in a dispute between

¹ We have already seen that, in the Culfargie Tree and Martin's MS., George, first of Tippermalloch, and Matthew, founder of the family of Easter Moncrieff, are made the younger sons of Sir John, and the *grandsons* of Sir Malcolm.

² Notarial instrument "done at Exmagrile," 5th October 1476 (Moncreiffe Writs), from which it appears that Sir John Moncrieff and Beatrix Dundas had two other sons, Andrew and Thomas.

³ According to the Tree and Martin's MS., Sir John Moncrieff of that Ilk and Margaret Levingstoune had two sons and one daughter—

1. Sir William, who married Beatrix Grahame, and fell at Flodden in 1513—their children being Sir William of that Ilk, who married Margaret Murray of Balvaird; John, father of Gilbert Moncrieff of Myreside; Alexander; and three daughters, Margaret, Elizabeth, and Jean, corre-

sponding to the daughters of Sir *John* Moncrieff and Beatrix Forman.

2. Mr John Moncrieff, ancestor of the family of Wester-Rind, who married first, Margaret, daughter of Tyrie of Drumkilbo; secondly, a daughter of the Earl of Atholl, and had three sons, Edmond, David, and John—apparently by his first wife.

His daughter Margaret is said, in Martin's MS., to have married John Campbell of Lawers, eldest son of Sir Colin of Glenurchy. It appears, however, from the 'Black Book of Taymouth,' that "a dochtir to the Laird of Moncrieff" was the second wife of Sir *Duncan* Campbell of Glenurchy, eldest son of Sir Colin, and not of John Campbell of Lawers, who was a younger son of Sir Colin by his fourth wife. The 'Black Book,' moreover, is confirmed by the statement in the Culfargie Tree.

Lyon of Logy and Cardeny of Foss in the year 1488.¹ Six years previously he appears to have contemplated a marriage with Geillis, daughter of David Ogilvy of Inchmartin. He died before 1530, as appears from a charter dated 9th April of that year, "*Beatricæ Forman, dominæ de Moncrieff, relictæ quondam domini Johannis, et Wilhelmo Moncrieff de eodem eorum filio, terrarum de Balgony in vicecom. de Perth.*" According to Douglas, Sir John Moncrieff had three son and three daughters—

1. Sir William, his heir.
2. Hugh, ancestor of the Moncrieffs of Tubbermallo (Tippermalloch), who does not appear in the other pedigrees.²
3. John (of Rapness), ancestor of Sir Robert Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe, Bart.

1st daughter, Agnes, married to Thomas Scott, Lord Justice-Clerk.

2d, Jean, married to John Leslie of Parkhill, second son of William third Earl of Rothes.

3d, Elizabeth (died 16th June 1570), married to David Boswell of Balmuto, by whom she had ten sons and ten daughters.³

Sir John was succeeded by his eldest son—

XIII. Sir WILLIAM MONCRIEFF of that Ilk, who, according to the Tree and Martin's MS., was son of Sir William and Beatrix Grahame, and *grandson* of Sir John. He appears to have got charters of various lands, including those of Tubbermallo, between the years 1530 and 1550; and, according to Douglas, he sold Tubbermallo to his brother Hugh.⁴

¹ Fraser's 'Red Book of Grandtully,' i. 170.

² From the Register of the Privy Council, it appears that "Robert Moncreif, brother to the laird of Tibermello," along with Norman Leslie and many others, was summoned before the Parliament at Edinburgh to answer for the slaughter of the Cardinal (Beaton) and keeping the castle of St Andrews.

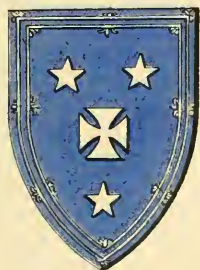
³ In a letter to the author, dated London, 3d March 1870, his lamented and accomplished kinsman, the late Hugo Reid, refers to an interview with Colonel (then Captain) Moncrieff of Culfargie, and makes the following allusion to the fruits of this marriage: "We established a

Scotch cousinship through my ancestors, Isabel Moncrieff, wife of Scot of Balwearie, and *Elizabeth Moncrieff, wife of Boswell of Balmuto*—the latter a very remarkable person and public benefactor, for she impoverished her husband and enriched her country with ten sons and ten daughters. According to Bonaparte, she must be reckoned one of the most distinguished women of modern times, as he said to Madame de Staël, when that strong-minded but rash female asked him whom he considered the greatest woman—"She, madam, who has borne the greatest number of children!"

⁴ According to Playfair, Sir William sold Tub-

In 1534 he had a dispute relative to marches with Archibald Moncrieff of Easter Moncrieff.

In the State Papers pertaining to the reign of Henry VIII., we find (1) "The yerely value of the landes, and also the value and substaunce in goodes, of the Scottishe Prisoners lately taken at Salowe [Solway] Mosse" (25th November 1542); and (2) "The names of the Prisoners of Scotlande nowe sent downe to Carlisle, with the names of such persones as be appointed to come in to lye in pledge for them, and also the names of the noblemen and gentlemen to whome the said pledges shal be commytted." Under the former it appears that "The Larde Monkreth [Moncrieff] had in landes per annum 600 merkes Scottisshe, which is Sterling £125, and in goodes 1000 merkes Scottisshe, which is Sterling 250 merkes;" while under the latter it is stated that "The Larde Munkrethe, his sonne and heyre [were committed] to Sir Henry Savill."¹ The same Laird of Mon-



crieff is mentioned by Calderwood, under the year 1544, in connection with the city of Perth. "The Master of Ruthven," he says, "tooke the maintenance of Sanct Johnston [Perth], heving in his companie the Laird of Muncreif and other friends, and, as he thought, so doing did mainteane his owne right; for the Provostrie of the toun was in a maner hereditarie to his hous."²

Sir William Moncrieff married Margaret, daughter of Murray of Balvaird, by whom he had, according to Douglas and Playfair, three sons and one daughter³—

1. William, younger of that Ilk, who died in 1570, during his father's lifetime.
2. John, Prior of Blantyre, whose illegitimate son Gilbert, "Physician

bermallo (Tippermalloch) to William Moncrieff (designed of Tippermalloch) and Janet Graham.

¹ 'State Papers,' v. (1836) 232-235. Endorsed by Bishop Tunstall, "Valor of Scottyish prisoners lande and godys."

² 'History of the Kirk of Scotland,' Wodrow

Society edition, i. 168.

³ According to the Tree and Martin's MS., *four* sons and *five* daughters, the name of the additional son being James, and three of the four additional daughters corresponding to those of earlier or later generations.

to the King," who married Agnes Clerk, obtained letters of legitimation in 1585, and died two years afterwards. Besides four daughters—Margaret, Marie, Elizabeth, and Agnes—Gilbert Moncrieff appears to have had a son, James.¹

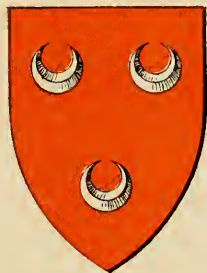
3. Alexander, ancestor of the Moncrieffs of Kintillo, afterwards of Culfargie and Barnhill.

The daughter Isabel married, about 1552, Sir George Rollo of Dun-crub, ancestor of Lord Rollo.

Sir William died about 1575, and was succeeded by his grandson (No. XV. *infra*).

XIV. WILLIAM MONCRIEFF, eldest son of Sir William of that Ilk, died before his father in 1570, having married Jean, third daughter of Laurence third Lord Oliphant, by whom he appears to have had seven sons and three daughters—

1. William, who succeeded his grandfather.
2. Sir John Moncrieff of Kinmouth, who married Jean, daughter of Sir John Spence of Condie, King's Advocate, by whom he had (besides three sons, John, Andrew, and Gerard) a daughter, Agnes, married about 1605 to Sir William Stewart of Grandtully, and had, besides five sons, an only daughter, Grizel, who died in 1613, and whose monument, in the ancient chapel of Moncrieff, bears the following inscription: "Heir lyis Grissl Stewart, doghter to S. Williame Stewart of Grantulle, and oye [grandchild] to S. Johne Moncreif, Knight, of Kinmouthe, and brother iermane to Williame Moncreif of that Ilk." The slab also exhibits two shields of arms, of which the uppermost bears the coat of Stewart of Grandtully—a fess chequy between two mullets in chief, and a lymphad in base—between the letters G · S · ; while the lower shield, between the letters DA · M · (Dame Agnes Moncrieff?) is charged with the arms of Moncrieff—the date, 1613, being below. Lady Stewart's



¹ 'Commissariat of Edinburgh Testaments,' vol. xxix., 25th December 1596.

arms and monogram, and those of her husband, are painted on the ceiling of the church of St Mary at Grandtully, with the date 1636; and the same monograms appear on stones in the churchyard.¹

3. Andrew Moncrieff, minister of Crail.

4. Hugh, who married Helen, daughter of Dundas of Fingask.²

5. Archibald, minister of Abernethy.

6. Henry, } who both died without issue.

7. George, }

1st daughter, Margaret, married to Hay (?) of Balhousie.

2d, Agnes, married to David Murray, "Master of Binn," father of Andrew Murray, minister of Abdie, and afterwards Lord Balvaird.

3d, Jean, married, *c.* 1576, to William Ramsay of Murie.

[Playfair gives *six* sons and *four* daughters, in the following order: William, Archibald, Hugh, David, John, and James; Elizabeth, Catharine, Christian, and Agnes. Douglas gives *no* daughters, and only *two* sons—William and David—adding, however (as already stated), that there "is also *said* to have been another son, Mr Archibald Moncreiff, who was minister at Abernethy."]

On the death of Sir William Moncrieff of that Ilk, in the year 1579,³ he was succeeded by his grandson—

XV. WILLIAM MONCRIEFF of that Ilk, who, between the years 1573 and 1607, got charters of several lands, including Wester Rhynd, Carnbee, Craigie, and Moncrieff. He appears to have held the office of Sheriff of Perth in 1592, and on the 18th of May 1605 he acquired the lands of Frierton, with the fishings, etc., from James Drummond of Leichill, Sheriff-Clerk of Perth.⁴ He married in 1589, Anne, daughter of Robert Moray of Abercainey,⁵ by whom he had six sons and six daughters:—

1. William, who died without issue during his father's lifetime, in the twenty-second year of his age.

¹ See Fraser's 'Red Book of Grandtully,' i. Introduction, xxii, xxiii.

Hugh Moncrieff of Coittis of Elcho, "brother german of William Moncrieff of that Ilk," appears to have married Agnes, eldest daughter of Thomas Dishington of Ardross, in 1604.

³ "16th December 1579, William Moncreiff, Laird of that Ilk."—(MS. in Adv. Lib., embracing notices of burials, etc., in Perth and neighbourhood.)

⁴ Moncreiffe Writs.

⁵ Her arms are given on page 33.

2. Sir John, his successor.
3. Robert, of Craigie, d. *s. p.* in 1624.
4. Hugh, married to Isabel, daughter of Hay of Megginch, by whom he had a son, John of Tippermalloch, who ultimately succeeded to the baronetcy.
5. David, who married Margaret Moncrieff, heiress of Balcaskie, and not Margaret Beaton, as stated in the Culfargie Tree.



6. James.¹

1st daughter, Christian, married in 1606 to Robert Forbes of Rires, in whose favour there is a sasine of the Mill of Cragy, dated 8th January 1603.

2d, Annas, married first to William Scott, younger of Ardros;² and secondly, to James Ramsay of Corstan.

3d, Catharine, "Lady Logie Wishart."

4th, Jean, married to Hay of Leys.

5th, Nicholas, married to John Dundas of Fingask.

6th, Bathsheba (or Bersheba), married to Sir David Barclay of Cullerny.

[Playfair gives *five* sons and *five* daughters—viz., William (*ob. vitâ patris*), Sir John, Robert, Hugh, and David; Christian, Elizabeth, Helen, Jean, and Anne (all married). Douglas gives only *four* sons—David, Sir John, Robert, and Hugh—and the same daughters as Playfair, except Christian.]

William Moncrieff of that Ilk was succeeded, about 1617, by his second surviving son—

XVI. JOHN MONCRIEFF of that Ilk, who was created a Baronet

¹ The order of the four younger sons—Robert, Hugh, David, and James—is distinctly set forth in a charter of the lands of Cragy, dated 27th June 1611.—Reg. Mag. Sig. Lib. 46, No. 391.

² "My only son, Mr William Scot, being married to the Laird of Montcreife, his 2d dat^h

the last of June 1612, was called by the Lord out of this lyfe the 19 of Aprile 1613, having left no children behind him."—Letter from W. Scot of Elie to Robert Wodrow, dated 30th June 1613: Wodrow's 'Biographical Collections,' ii. 113.

of Nova Scotia, 22d April 1626 — “Joanni Moncrieff suisque hæredibus masculis quibuscunque,” being the fourth in that year;¹ and three years



afterwards he got a charter under the Great Seal of the lands of Letter Bannachie. He was twice married — first, to Anne, daughter of David Beaton of Creich,² by whom he had a son, William, who died before his father, and two daughters — Annas, married to James Bethune of Balfour,³ and Elizabeth, who died unmarried in 1710. Sir John's second wife was Lady Mary (erroneously called *Anne* by Playfair), only daughter of William Murray,

second Earl of Tullibardine,⁴ by whom he had five sons and one daughter :—

1. Sir John, second Baronet, his successor.
2. Sir David, third Baronet.
3. Sir James, fourth Baronet.
4. Henry.
5. William.

The daughter, Margaret, born in 1639, married George Murray of Pittencrieff, Lieutenant-Colonel in the Guards, second son of Patrick, first Lord Elibank.⁵

[Douglas gives Sir John two sons and two daughters by his second wife — Sir John and Sir James, second and third Baronets. Agnes,

¹ Eighteen baronets of Nova Scotia were created in 1625, Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstoun (paternally Seton), younger son of Alexander fifteenth Earl of Sutherland, being the premier of the Order. Of the first twenty-two titles, no fewer than sixteen have either merged in Peerages or become extinct or dormant; and accordingly the Baronetcy of Moncrieff appears now to be *sixth* in the order of precedence. See ‘Tracts relating to Nova Scotia,’ edited by David Laing for Bannatyne Club, 1867.

² For an interesting notice of this ancient

family, so intimately connected with the fortunes of Mary Queen of Scots, and to which one of the “Four Maries” belonged, see ‘New Statistical Account of Scotland’ (Fife), ix. 636.

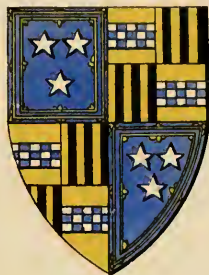
³ Lamont records her *death* as follows :— “1649: Sept. 16.—The younge lady of Balfoure in Fyfe dyed att Kilrinny (being daughter to the Laird of Moncrieffe), and was interred the 23 of the said instant, att ther ordinar buriall place.”

⁴ Her arms are given on page 35.

⁵ There appears to have been another daughter, Elizabeth, “honorabilis ancilla,” 1661.

married to Sir William Stewart of Grandtully;¹ Jean, married, 1st, to Simon Fraser of Inveralachie; 2dly, Sir Thomas Burnet of Leys, Baronet.]

Sir John Moncrieff was a zealous Covenanter, and a ruling elder in the parish of Carnbee, in which he resided. His arms, impaled with those of his second wife, Lady Mary Murray, are sculptured on a triangular stone from the mansion-house of Carnbee, now in the wall of a cottage in the village of Carnbee, a few miles north of Pittenweem. The shield is placed between the letters S. I. M. (Sir John Moncrieff) and L. M. M. (Lady



Mary Murray), and above the date 1638. His name is embraced in the list of the General Assembly's Commission in the years 1646 and 1648; and he appears from the minutes to have been an active member of the Presbytery of St Andrews. In a letter addressed to him by Samuel Rutherford relative to concert in prayer and other religious subjects, dated Aberdeen, 14th May 1637, the writer alludes to Sir John's fourth sister, Jean, who was married to Hay of Leys, as "Lady Leyes."²

The first Baronet died towards the end of the year 1650, as appears from the following entry in 'Lamont's Diary': "1650, Dec.—The Lady Moncrife departed out of this life att Moncriefe in Stratherne. Shortlie after, the laird of Moncriefe, her husband, also departed out of this life."

The armorial bearings of Sir John Moncrieff and those of his second wife, "Dame Mary Murray," are sculptured, in high relief, on two stones, each about two feet square, formerly in the old mansion-house, and now in a recess in the middle of the north wall of the ruinous chapel of Moncrieff: (1) The paternal coat of Moncrieff, supported by two armed men with spears. *Crest*—A lion's face affrontée. *Motto*—Sûre Espérance. (2) A shield charged with three mullets, within a double tressure, and supported by

¹ Sir William Stewart of Grandtully married Agnes, daughter of Sir John Moncreiff of *Kinmouth*, Knt. (see page 31). Douglas's mistake

is unfortunately repeated in the 'Red Book of Grandtully,' vol. i., Introduction, p. lxxxiv.

² Rutherford's 'Letters,' Bonar's Edition, i. 400.

two lions. *Crest*—A mermaid issuing out of a coronet. *Motto*—Via tuta.

He was succeeded by his eldest surviving son—

XVII. Sir JOHN MONCRIEFF of that Ilk, second Baronet, born in 1635, who, in the year 1663, sold the estate of Moncrieff to his kinsman Thomas Moncreiffe, of the family of Rapness, who was created a baronet in 1685. His previous disposal of the lands of Carnbee is thus referred to by Lamont: "1657.—This year Mr William Ord, Shirra Clerk of Perth, bought the lands of Carnbee, in Fife, from the laird of Moncrieff in Strathewrne. They stood him about thirty-seven or forty thousand marks." In 'Martin's MS.' it is stated that Sir John was "an accomplished gentleman, discreet and prudent," but that he "came to the estate under great burthens, through the profuseness of his mother, which he could not overcome." Sir John died unmarried in 1675, when he was succeeded in the title by his brother—

XVIII. Sir DAVID MONCRIEFF, third Baronet, who also died unmarried in 16—, and was succeeded by his younger brother—

XIX. Sir JAMES MONCRIEFF, fourth Baronet, a Colonel in the Army, who also died unmarried, at Dunkeld, in 1698, when the baronetcy devolved upon his cousin-german—

XX. JOHN MONCRIEFF of Tippermalloch, son of Hugh Moncrieff (a younger brother of Sir John, first Baronet), by his wife Isabel, daughter of Hay of Megginch, who thus became fifth Baronet. He succeeded to the estate of Tippermalloch under a conveyance by William Moncrieff of Tippermalloch, who, according to Playfair, died without issue about the year 1655.

Besides being distinguished as a medical practitioner, he was the author of a work entitled 'The Poor Man's Physician, or Receipts,' of which the only edition now to be found appears to have been printed from a copy delivered by himself to the Marchioness of Atholl. He married, about 1680,¹ Nicholas, daughter of — Moncreiff of Easter Moncreiff,² by whom he had a numerous family of sons and daughters, of whom (according to Playfair) all the former, except Hugh, died before himself. Of

¹ 'New Register of Sasines for Perthshire,' vol. vii. fol. 318.

² Arms given on page 37.

his three daughters, Jean and Elizabeth both died unmarried after 1756, while Bethia (the eldest) married William Moncreiff, minister of Methven, descended from the Moncreiffs of Rapness, by whom she had (besides three daughters, Bethia, who died unmarried in 1775, Nicholas, and Mary) two sons—

1. John, minister of Rhynd, who succeeded his maternal uncle Sir Hugh Moncreiff in the estate of Tippermalloch.
2. Robert, born in 1708.



In a letter from William Moncreiff (minister of Methven?) to Robert Wodrow, dated 9th May 1716,¹ there is a detailed account of a curious dream which the laird of Tippermalloch had some forty years before his death (*cir.* 1674), when he was about forty-six years of age. It appears that "he was three nights in dreaming, and the manner is remarkable, for wher he left off the first night he began the second, and wher he left off he second he began the third, and in that night his dream was finished." The dream had reference not only to God's providence concerning his people in Scotland, but over the Church universal. The writer, however, confines his account to that part of the dream which related to ourselves. Tippermalloch first saw a great commotion in England, and then an army (the Chaldeans) gathering in the north of Scotland, which advanced towards Stirling, and caused much consternation till another army appeared from the west, which routed the northern host, and afterwards encountered an ambassador on horseback from the south, who reproved them for their sense of security, distrust, and unbelief. He then saw a company of Episcopal clergymen on the seaside—also ships in the Firth,—and, looking southwards, he observed a number of crowned horsemen riding towards Edinburgh. Then followed a great meeting in Edinburgh for settling the affairs of the kingdom, and "five or seven" delegates were sent to Holland, with whom the dreamer flew thither through the air, and beheld a great light. From Holland he flew with two ambassadors

¹ Wodrow Letters, MS., vol. xix., No. 35, printed in Maidment's '*Analecta Scotica*,' ii. 175.

to Rome, where he saw great darkness, in which, however, the ambassadors shone as stars.

When Tippermalloch first heard of "Sacchervail mobs,"¹ he told Wodrow's correspondent that "they wer the begening of the accomplishment of his dreame, and er long our troubles wald begine in Scotland."

At the commencement of the letter the writer states that Tippermalloch was universally esteemed to be "eminently pious"—that "he spent much of his time in reading the Scripture, that his delight was in the law of the Lord, that his leafe did not wither, and that he was fatt and flourishing in his old age."

Sir John Moncrieff died on the 27th of September 1714, at the age of eighty-six, when he was succeeded by his only surviving son—

XXI. Sir HUGH MONCRIEFF of Tippermalloch, as sixth Baronet. Sir Hugh died unmarried in 1744, when the estate of Tippermalloch went to his nephew (son of his eldest sister), John Moncrieff, minister of Rhynd—the baronetcy being assumed, some years afterwards, by the Rev. William Moncrieff, minister of Blackford.

The armorial bearings of the Moncrieffs of that Ilk are given by Nisbet,² from the Lyon Register, as follows: Argent, a lion rampant gules, armed and langued azure, a chief ermine. *Crest*—A demi-lion rampant as the former. *Supporters*—Two men, armed *cap-à-pie*, bearing pikes on their shoulders proper. *Motto*—Sûr Espérance.

The same author, in his notice of Sir David Murray's creation as Lord Scone in 1605, refers to the relative MS. of James Workman, herald painter, who assisted at the solemnity, in which the same arms are assigned to Sir John Moncrieff of that Ilk, one of the two barons who carried the banner and pennon of Sir David's ensigns. Workman, however, gives different "exterior ornaments" to Sir John—viz., for crest, *a stork's head*, with the motto *Virescit*, and for supporters, *two lions*.³ Nisbet refers to

¹ The "mobs" here referred to were in connection with the two celebrated sermons preached in 1709 by Dr Henry Sacheverel, in which he attacked the principles of the Revolution settlement and decried the Act of Toleration, which led to his impeachment before the House of Lords, his

suspension from preaching for three years, and the burning of the obnoxious discourses by the public hangman. The Doctor's subsequent popularity formed a curious feature in his history.

² 'System of Heraldry,' i. 68.

³ *Ibid.*, i. 251.

the use of supporters on the occasion in question as an instance of *knights* having been allowed, in accordance with Scottish practice, to bear these heraldic appendages; but he elsewhere¹ embraces Moncrieff of that Ilk in a list of representatives of "ancient barons and chiefs of families," to whom supporters are assigned in our old books of blazons, thus confirming the statement of Sir George Mackenzie, to the effect that "such as were Barons before 1587 may have supporters as well as Lord Barons."² It is somewhat singular, moreover, that, in connection with the same statement, Sir George Mackenzie specially mentions Moncrieff of that Ilk, along with Halyburton of Pitcur, Fotheringham of Powrie, and Irvine of Drum, as an illustrative example.

¹ 'System of Heraldry,' Part IV. p. 32.

² 'Science of Heraldry,' chap. xxxi.



THE MONCRIEFS OF REIDIE AND MYRES,

AFTERWARDS

THE SKENES OF HALLYARDS AND PITLOUR.



HIS early branch of the House of Moncrieff is thus referred to in the 'Old Statistical Account of Scotland' (vi. 345): "Moncrieff of Reedy, an ancient and respectable family, who received some signal tokens of favour from one of the Scottish kings, when residing at Falkland." Among their former possessions was Myres Castle, which, according to Sir Robert Sibbald, was "a parcel of the lands of Auchtermuchtie, feued by King James V. to James Scrmyeour; afterwards it was purchased by Major-General Leslie, and is now, by marriage, the heritage of the Moncrieffs of Ridie."¹ In

¹ 'History of Fife and Kinross,' Part IV. sect. viii. p. 389. In the same section Sibbald mentions Pitlour. "Above Cash," he says, "on the

south side of the hills, is Pitlowre, the possession formerly of Pitcairn, now of Skeen, a son of Hallyards in Fife."

his interesting little work on the 'Historical Antiquities of Fife,' the Rev. J. W. Taylor informs us that, in former days, Myres "gave a safe harbour to some of the saints of God, when hunted down by wicked men. It is related as a tradition, among the descendants of the Reidie family, that there was, in what now appears as a recess at the foot of the dining-room, a close press with concealed doors, communicating with the cellar; and that there, in times of strict search, the persecuted minister was frequently hid. One distinguished sufferer there was who, oftener than once, found refuge in this hiding-place. It was Mr John Welsh of Irongray, grandson of the celebrated Mr John Welsh of Ayr. . . . Because he harboured Welsh, a declared traitor, the Council fined the laird of Reidie 2000 merks. . . . Among those that were summoned before the Council for being present at conventicles, the laird of Reidie is further mentioned as one, and an additional fine of £850 is laid upon him."

The early reign of James VI. has been described as "the Augustan age of Falkland," whose ancient streets have many a tale to tell. At that date several nobles and gentles, as well as some of the chief officers of the Royal household, had residences in the quaint old town. On the south side of the principal street, and immediately opposite the Palace, is a substantial two-storeyed house bearing the following inscription:—

"All praise to God, thanks to the most excellent monarch of Great Britaine, of whose princelie liberalities this is my portione. *Deo Laus. Esto fidus. Adest Merces.*—Nichol Moncrieff, 1610."

The initials "N. M.," followed by "ÅO. 1610," appear over the doorway. The adjoining house occupies the site of a dwelling assigned to the Royal falconer,¹ and erected in 1607. A semicircular stone, which belonged to an older edifice, is built into the wall, and is thus inscribed:—

¹ During the sixteenth century *falconry* was a favourite pursuit in Scotland. The family historian thus describes George sixth Lord Seton, father of Queen Mary's faithful adherent and of one of her four maids of honour: "He was weill experimentit in all games, tuk grit plesour in halking, and was haldin the best falconar in his dayis." In 1849 a circular font was dug up at

Seton church containing coins, hawks' bells, etc., which are now preserved at Gosford.

It appears from the Lord Treasurer's Accounts (1538-39) that the same Lord Seton's "hand-fasting"—a preliminary to his second marriage—took place at *Falkland*, the "King of the Commons" having in all probability been present on the occasion.

"I · R · 6. God saif ye King of Grit Britan, France, and Irland, Our Soverian, for of his liberality this house did I edify."

Below the inscription is a hunting-horn between the letters "B. W.," and a stag under the initials "M. S.," accompanied by the legend "Contentment is great Riches."

"The proprietors of Balcaskie," says the Rev. Walter Wood, "were David Moncrieff and Sir Alexander Moncrieff, his brother. They were a branch of the family of Moncrieff of that Ilk; and there were six brothers altogether, of whom the others were Nathan of Randerston, *George of Reddie*, John of Murnipe, and Andrew of Cash."¹ He then gives a short account of the Moncrieff proprietors of Balcaskie, of whom the last was John Moncrieff (great-grandson of Andrew Moncrieff of Cash), who sold Balcaskie in 1665 to Sir William Bruce, second son of Robert Bruce of Blairhall, descended from the family of Clackmannan.

Most of the six brothers already referred to turn up pretty frequently in the Register of the Privy Seal and other public records, as shown by the following extracts :—

Letter to *Alexander Moncreif* constituting him Master Falconer to his Majesty, with all fees, etc., pertaining thereto, vacant by decease of William Brisbane, last Falconer to his Majesty.—Dated at St Andrews, 28th July 1580.

Ratification to *Alexander Moncreif*, his Majesty's Falconer, of the thirds and superplus of the Provestry and Prebendaries of the College Kirk of Abernethy.—26th March 1585.

Confirmation of charter by James Scott of Balwerie, knight, in favour of *Alexander Moncreif*, "*famulum regium*," of the lands of Pitlour-Wester and Achnarie, in the barony of Strathmiglo and shire of Fife.—7th January 1601.

Precept for charter to *Alexander Moncreif*, servitor to the king, of the lands of Falsyde, in the barony of Pettinweme.—8th August 1606.

Charter to Sir *Alexander Moncreif* of Fawsyd, knight, *proto-cuerarcario* [chief treasurer or comptroller?], in liferent, and to John Moncreif, only lawful son of the deceased *Andro Moncreif* of Leddin-Urquhart, and his heirs in fee, of part of the lands of Balcaskie, etc.—16th April 1617.

Gift to *Andro Moncreif*, usher of his Majesty's chamber of presence, of the non-entry of the lands of Casche, through the decease of — Bikkartoun of Wester Casche.—At Falkland, 24th July 1584.

Letter disposing to *Andro Moncreif*, one of the keepers of his Majesty's outer

¹ 'East Neuk of Fife,' 2d edition, p. 273.

chamber-door, a monk's portion of the Abbacy of Dunfermline, etc.—7th November 1584.

Decreet Arbitral between John Morton, elder of Gordonshall, and *Andro* Moncreif of Leadin-Urquhart, and *Nathaniel* his brother, anent an action of "Spulzie."—At Pittenweem, 30th March 1612.

Charter to John Moncreif, only lawful son and heir-apparent of the deceased *Andro* Moncreif of [Easter Casche], brother-german to Sir *Alexander* Moncreif of Balcaskie, knight, and his future spouse, Katharine Murray [second daughter of Sir Mungo Murray of Clermonth, knight, and Lady Margaret Crichton, his wife], of the lands of Fawsyd, etc.—24th January 1617.

Letter by our sovereign lord, making mention that his Majesty, remembering the thankful service done to his Highness by the deceased *Andro* Moncreif in Easter Casche, one of his Majesty's Falconers, grants his pension of 13s. 4d. Scots daily, and 20 bolls victual yearly, to his son Thomas Moncreif, also Falconer to his Majesty.—At St Andrews, 30th July 1617.

Disposition to *Nathaniel* Moncreif, brother-german to *Alexander* Moncreif of Balcaskie, in liferent, and William Moncreif his eldest lawful son, and his heirs in fee, of the lands of Randerstoun, in the constabulary of Crail and shire of Fife, formerly in the possession of William Myrtoun of Cambo.—28th July 1615.

Confirmation of charter by James Wardlaw, son of the late Andrew Wardlaw of Torrie, of the lands of Rady [Reidie] and Layngswaird, called the Waird of Rady, etc., to *George* Moncreif, servitor to the King, and his heirs heritably.—6th June 1616.

Disposition to *George* Moncreif, servitor to his Majesty, and Isobell Norvell his spouse, in conjunct fee, of lands in Auchtermuchty.—19th February 1623.

1. The eldest of these six brothers appears to have been Sir Alexander Moncrieff of Fawsyde and Pitlour, who died without issue about the year 1620.

2. Andrew Moncrieff of Easter Cash and Leadin-Urquhart, "one of his Majesty's Falconers," seems to have had (besides two daughters, Grissell, married to Mr John Borthwick, and Barbara, wife of the Rev. Archibald Moncrieff, minister at Dollar) two sons—

(1.) John Moncrieff (of Easter Cash?), who succeeded his uncle Sir Alexander in 1620, and his uncle David, owner of Balcaskie, nine years later. As already stated, John Moncrieff married, 1st, Katharine, second daughter of Sir Mungo Murray of Clermonth,¹ who died in

¹ Sir Mungo Murray appears to have been mixed up (1649-51) in a groundless slander connected with the wife of Sir James Sandilands, first Lord Abercrombie.—See Kinloch's 'Ecclesi-

astical Records,' Abbotsford Club, 1837, pp. 52, 142, 161; and Douglas's 'Peerage of Scotland,' i. 15.

1626; and, 2dly, Helen Colville, who died in 1634. He died before 1647, leaving a daughter, Margaret Moncrieff, who married David Moncrieff of Craigie, a younger son of William Moncrieff, younger of that Ilk and Carnbee and his wife Jean Oliphant, by whom she had (besides a daughter who married a son of Thomas Sydserf, Bishop of Galloway in 1634, and of Orkney in 1662) two sons—

William Moncrieff of Balcaskie.

John Moncrieff, who succeeded his brother, and sold Balcaskie, as already mentioned, in 1665.

Andrew Moncrieff's second son, was—

(2.) Thomas Moncrieff, King's Falconer, alive in 1636, and married to Elspeth Lenthron, by whom he had a son John.

3. David Moncrieff of Balcaskie, died without issue in 1629, when he was succeeded by his nephew John, as already stated.

4. Nathaniel Moncrieff of Randerston, who died in 1631, married Isabella, daughter of John Moncrieff of Tippermalloch,¹ by whom he had (besides three daughters, Isabella, died before 1630; Helen, married, c. 1624, William Moncrieff of Kintillo; and Margaret, married, 1st, in 1657, Alexander Cuninghame, brother of the laird of Barns, and, 2dly, Thomas Spens of Lathallan) a son—

William Moncrieff of Randerston (who died in 1659),² heir to his mother in 1615, married, 1st, Catherine Inglis; 2dly, Margaret, daughter of Sir John Learmonth of Balcomie, by whom he had (besides two daughters, Helen, wife of Archbishop Sharp, and Isobel, married to James Inglis of Kingask) three sons, of whom the eldest died in 1655; Thomas, "a loose liver," succeeded his brother, and sold Randerston in 1663; while a third son was wounded at the bloody battle of Inverkeithing in 1651.³

5. George Moncrieff of Reidie will be afterwards referred to.

6. Of John Moncrieff of Murnipe nothing appears to be known.

¹ 'Lyon Office Records.'

² On the 24th of April 1644, this laird of Randerston was appointed, along with Mr Arthur Myrton, by the Presbytery of St Andrews, "to shew the Universitie that it is their earnest re-

quest that Mr Thomas Lenthron be preferred to the place of Bibliothecarian."—Kinloch, *ut supra*, p. 20.

³ 'Lamont's Diary,' pp. 90, 119, 144, 166.

Notwithstanding a careful search in the writs in the possession of the present representative of the Reidie family, as well as in the principal public records, we have hitherto been unable to ascertain the parentage of the Royal falconer and his five brothers, including George Moncrieff of Reidie. The property of Easter Cash (or Caische) appears to have been in the possession of the Moncrieff family before the middle of the sixteenth century. The name of "John Moncreif in Easter Caishe" occurs in a respite to William Lord Ruthven, and many others, dated 26th February 1546, for treacherously coming with Matthew Earl of Lennox, and others "their complices," to Leith, "in arrayit battell aganis our souerane lordis tutour and gouvernour."¹ From a sasine in implement of the marriage-contract between James Maxwell of Auchtermuchty and Barbara Moncreif, daughter of the *late* John Moncreif in Easter Caishe and Janet Syme his spouse, dated 12th April 1592,² we learn that John Moncreif died before that date, and that (besides his daughter Barbara) he had at least four sons, whose names appear in the deed as cautioners—viz., William, Andrew, Alexander, and Nicholas. On the 20th September 1578 a respite was granted to several Moncrieffs, including two sons of the then head of the house, and *William* Moncreif, "son to John Moncreif of the Casche," for the slaughter of Arthour Jarden.³ Nothing seems to be known of *Alexander*. *Nicholas*, living in 1621, appears to have married Isabel Gilchrist, and is probably the Nichol Moncrieff whose name occurs in the Falkland inscription, with the date 1610, already referred to. In the Register of the Privy Seal we find a gift to Nichol Moncrief, one of his Majesty's ordinary guard, of Walter M'Allester, son and apparent heir to Donald M'Allester of Kepdowre, at the horn, for the slaughter of Patrick Galbraith, son to Andro Galbraith in Bauchlyvie, dated at Stirling 10th September 1585; and in the Treasurer's Accounts, under date March 1603, Nichol Moncrieff, "awenarie man" (stabler) to the king, receives £16, 3s. 4d. of wages. Nicholas's son was John Moncrieff of Crocehills

¹ 'General Register of Deeds,' vol. xxi. fol. 1.

² 'Protocol Book of Stephen Paterson,' MS. Adv. Lib.

³ 'Privy Seal Register,' vol. xlv. fol. 80. From

a subsequent entry, dated 30th March 1585, relative to the same occurrence, it appears that the murdered man was brother to the Laird of Apilgirth.

(Crosshills), who, in 1688, is designed "heritor of the lands of Auchtermuchtie."

John Moncreif of Easter Caishe seems to have been succeeded by his son *Andrew* Moncreif in Easter Caishe, who, on the 6th of June 1595, granted a renunciation in favour of Richard Balcanquhall, younger, portioner of Auchtermuchty, of an annual rent of 600 merks out of the twenty-shilling land of Auchtermuchty.



Hugh Moncrieff, owner of Pitgorno in 1506, who married Janet Ochiltree, was, according to Playfair, a younger son of John Moncrieff of that Ilk by his wife, a daughter of Dundas of Dundas. Possibly *he* may have been the ancestor of the Cash line; but we

incline to think that they are an earlier offshoot, and probably one of the "several families of the name of Moncrieff"—said by Douglas to

be descended from Matthew Moncrieff, first of the branch of Easter Moncrieff, who married Christian Mauld towards the end of the fifteenth century.



About a hundred years later, however, we get upon pretty sure ground, and from that date we shall now proceed to deduce the descent of the Reidie family.

I. GEORGE MONCRIEFF of Reidie, already mentioned as "Regi Servitor" in 1616, had by his wife, Isobell Norvell,¹ a son and successor—

II. ANDREW MONCRIEFF of Reidie,² who, in 1629, married Katherine, daughter of Patrick Seton of Lathrisk (who in 1645 married, as her second husband, General John Leslie of Myres), by whom he had, besides a younger son, John—

¹ Her arms are given at the *top* of this page.

² "Jul. 21, 1632, Andreas Moncrieff, feoditarius, de Ridie, est mente captus, insanus, fatuus, et

prodigus, et Georgius Moncrieff de Ridie, suus pater—propinquior consanguineus dicti Andreæ sui filii."—*Inquisitiones de tutela*.

III. GEORGE MONCRIEFF of Reidie and Myres, his heir and successor, who, in 1653, married Margaret, daughter and heiress of the aforesaid General John Leslie of Myres, formerly of Otterston, who served under Gustavus Adolphus.¹ In addition to the estate of Myres, George Moncrieff succeeded, through his wife, to the office of Macer and Sergeant-at-Arms of the Palace of Falkland, which passed with Myres, on its sale, to the Bruces of Falkland, in 1823.²

Besides five daughters (Anna, Janet, Emelia, Elizabeth, married to — Melville, and Marjory, married to Sir Michael Balfour of Denmiln in 1698), George Moncrieff, who died in 1709, had two sons—John, born in 1657, who appears to have died young; and his successor—

IV. PATRICK MONCRIEFF of Reidie and Myres, a member of the Scottish Bar, and "Colonel of H.M. Scots Guards," who married Anna, second daughter of James Drummond of Cultmalundie, and widow of James Skene of Grange (brother of John Skene, fiar of Hall-yards), to whom she was married in 1688. In a letter dated 1696, "Captain Moncrieff of Ridie" is mentioned as the "Guard" of Lord Drummond.³

On the 24th of July 1702 he was presented with the freedom of the city of Edinburgh. He was the first member for the county of Fife after the Union of 1707, and died in 1709—the same year



¹ This appears from a Commission signed by Gustav Horn, and dated 9th May 1631, in the possession of Mr Skene of Pitlour. Among the Pitlour papers are several other Commissions in favour of General Leslie, including one conferring an important military command in August 1640, and signed by the Earls of Montrose, Cassilis,

Roths, and Dunfermline, etc., and another by Charles II. in 1651, relative to the defence of the coast of Fife.

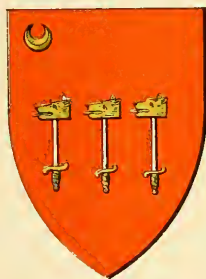
² Swan's 'History of Fife,' ii. 215.

³ Fraser's 'Memorials of the Maxwells of Pollok,' ii. 345.

as his father. His initials (P. M.) appear in a monogram, between two bunches of grapes, on the upper portion of a stone mantelpiece from Myres Castle, now in the garden-wall at Pitlour, below a lintel from the same quarter, bearing the following inscription: GIF·ONLIE·GOD·THE·GLOIR.

Patrick Moncrieff's son and successor was—

V. Colonel GEORGE MONCRIEFF of Reidie and Myres, born in 1705, who married Helen, eldest daughter of David Skene of Hallyards and Pitlour, in 1748. He died in 17—, and was survived by his wife till the year 1816.



Colonel George Moncrieff had two sons and seven daughters—

1. Patrick, his successor.
2. General George Moncrieff (died *c.* 1830), who married Euphemia, daughter of James Dewar of Vogrie, by whom he had (besides a daughter Mary, born 1808, died 1859) one son—

General George Moncrieff, born 5th November 1805 and died 22d February 1869, having married Emily-Catherine-Moffat, daughter of the Rev. Isaac Gosset, Vicar of Windsor and Datchel, by whom he had (besides three daughters, Helen-Cheape, born 1846, married, 1873, Robert Curwen, Esq.; Emily-Lucy, born 1848; and Maria-Georgina, twin with Emily, married, 1869, George Harriot, Esq.) five sons—

(1.) Major-General George-Hay Moncrieff, commanding Curragh Brigade, born 22d August 1836, and married, 12th April 1871, Flora-Caroline, second daughter of Charles J. S. M. Lamb, Esq., and sister of Sir Archibald Lamb, Bart.

He entered the army (1st Foot) in 1854, and was an officer in the Scots Fusilier Guards from August of that year till July 1886 (Captain, 1862; Regimental-Major, 1879; Lieut.-Colonel, 1881; Major-General, 1887). He acted as Assistant Military Secretary at Headquarters of the Army from 1st April 1887 to 31st March 1890, when he was appointed Brigadier-General, Curragh Brigade, Ireland.

He served in the Crimean Campaign (siege of Sevastopol), 1855-56; was mentioned in the despatches, and obtained a medal with clasp, and also a Turkish medal.

(2.) Douglas-Gosset-Waldegrave Moncrieff, Captain Royal Engineers, born 30th December 1837, died 8th February 1866.

(3.) Lynedoch-Needham Moncrieff, born 14th April 1841, married, December 1878, Antoinette Gæetano Mackay, by whom he had a daughter, Mary-Mercedes-Julia, born 11th September 1880. He was killed by Arabs near El Teb, Soudan, 5th November 1883.

(4.) Fitzroy-Dundas Moncrieff, born 2d March 1853.

(5.) Henry - Leslie Moncrieff, born 25th October 1859; died 17th December 1878.

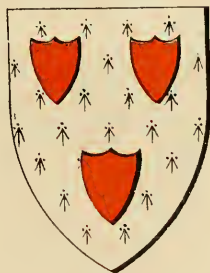
The seven daughters of Colonel George Moncrieff of Reidie and Myres and Helen Skene of Hallyards and Pitlour were—

1. Anne, married in 1780 to Dr John Govan.
2. Catharine, married in 1777 to John Hay-Balfour of Leys and Randerston.
3. Helen, married in 1785 to James Cheape of Wellfield and Strathtyrum.
4. Christina, married in 17— to Captain R. Kerr.
- 5, 6, 7. Jane, Margaret, and Douglas, who all died unmarried.

On his death in 17—, Colonel George Moncrieff was succeeded by his eldest son—

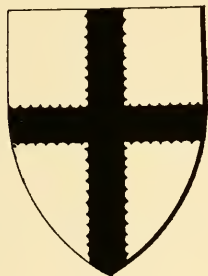
VI. PATRICK MONCRIEFF of Reidie and Myres, born 1749, married, in 1782, to Lucy, youngest daughter of Peter Hay of Leys, by whom he had (besides five daughters, Helen, married to James Thomson of Bogie; Douglas, Jane, Ann, and Lucy, who all died unmarried) a posthumous son and successor—

VII. PATRICK-GEORGE MONCRIEFF of Reidie and Myres, born 15th May 1790 (his father having died shortly before that date).



The present house of Pitlour was built, in 1784, by General Robert Skene (son of David Skene of Hallyards), then M.P. for the county of Fife; and the old mansion-house, which adjoined, was demolished in the beginning of the present century.

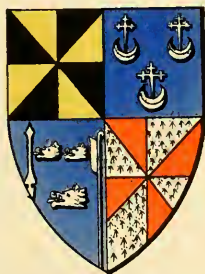
In 1787, General Philip Skene, brother of Robert, executed a deed of entail (which was not registered till 1831), in terms of which the heirs of



his sister Helen (wife of George Moncrieff of Reidie and Myres) were obliged to assume "the surname of Skene, and the arms and designation of Skene of Hallyards only, and no other surname, arms, or designation." In accordance with that provision, Patrick-George Moncrieff assumed the surname of *Skene* (in lieu of Moncrieff), when he succeeded to Hallyards and Pitlour on the death of his grandmother, Helen Skene, in 1816. He married,

first, Emily, daughter of John Rait of Anniston, by whom he had an only son, Moncrieff-Patrick-George, who succeeded his father; secondly, Jessie, fourth daughter of Dugald-John Campbell of Skerrington, by whom he had an only son, William-Baillie, of whom afterwards. On his death in

1861, Mr Patrick-George Skene was succeeded by his eldest son—



VIII.* MONCRIEFF-PATRICK-GEORGE SKENE of Hallyards and Pitlour,¹ born 1827, who died unmarried in 1866, when he was succeeded by his younger half-brother—

VIII. WILLIAM-BAILLIE SKENE of Hallyards and Pitlour, born 24th April 1838, educated at Harrow and Ch. Ch., Oxford (B.A. 1860, M.A. 1862); called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn, 1863; Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, 1864; Treasurer of Ch. Ch., Oxford; a magistrate for Kinross-shire, and a Justice of Peace and

¹ An asterisk (*) is added to the Roman numerals in the case of those who did not carry on the succession.

Deputy-Lieutenant for the county of Fife. He married, 7th February 1874, Lorina-Charlotte, eldest daughter of the Very Rev. Henry-George Liddell, Dean of Ch. Ch., Oxford (nephew of the first Lord Ravensworth), by whom he has one son and four daughters—

1. Philip-George-Moncrieff, born 18th July 1880.
2. Alice-Janet, born 18th November 1874.
3. Ina-Katharine-Hilda, born 19th May 1876.
4. Ruth-Mary, born 20th January 1890.

Besides a large and interesting collection of documents, Mr Skene has a number of family portraits, including the following:—

1. John Skene, the elder, of Hallyards, by *Jameson*, through whose third wife, Helen Pitcairn, he succeeded to Pitlour.

2. John Skene, fiar of Hallyards, son of the preceding by his first wife, Margaret Macgill, who sold Hallyards (parish of Auchtertool) to the Earl of Moray, in 1713.

3. Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Wallace of Craigie, Bart.

4. Dr John Pitcairn, father of Helen aforesaid.

5. David Skene, son of No. 1 by Helen Pitcairn.

6. Jean Douglas of Strathendry, his wife, and a young girl (afterwards Mrs Hay-Paterson of Mugdrum), by *Martin*, painted in 1785.

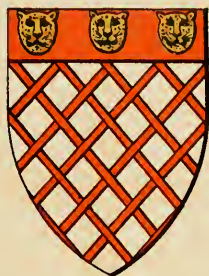
7. General Robert Skene, M.P. for Fife. Died unmarried, 1787. One of *Reynolds'* early portraits.

8. General Philip Skene, his brother. Died unmarried, 1788.

9. Helen Skene, their sister, wife of Colonel George Moncrieff of Reidie and Myres, and her daughter, Jeanie Moncrieff, by *Martin*.

10. Patrick Moncrieff of Reidie and Myres, eldest son of No. 9.

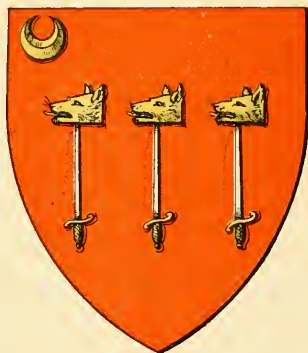
11. Lucy Hay of Leys, his wife, with her sister-in-law, Katharine Moncrieff, and her infant son, afterwards Patrick-George Skene of Hallyards and Pitlour.



12. Patrick-George Skene of Hallyards and Pitlour, and his eldest son Moncrieff, by *Colvin Smith*.

The arms granted by Sir Charles Erskine, Lyon King of Arms, to George Moncrieff of Reidie, on the 17th of November 1673, are as follows: Argent, a lion rampant gules, on a chief ermine, a rose of the second. *Crest*—A demi-lion rampant gules. *Motto*—*Sûr Espérance*.

The arms of Skene of Hallyards are: Gules, three daggers (or skenes) paleways, surmounted by as many wolves' heads coupéd proper—in dexter chief, a crescent for difference. *Crest*—A hand holding a dagger, surmounted by a wolf's head, as in the arms. *Motto*—*Virtutis Regia Merces*.





THE MONCREIFFES OF RAPNESS, NOW (*TERRITORIALLY*) OF THAT ILK.



THE earlier generations of this branch of the House of Moncreiff, as set forth in a tabular MS. pedigree in the possession of Sir Robert Moncreiffe, its present representative, differ in several particulars from those given by Douglas and Playfair. It will be observed, however, that the statements in the tabular pedigree substantially correspond with the Culfargie Tree and Martin's MS. According to Douglas and Playfair, the first of the family of Rapness was John, younger son of Sir John Moncreiff of that Ilk, by his wife, Beatrix Forman. Playfair states that there is a tradition to that effect, which is "supported by several private memorials of the principal family." John Moncreiff is said to have been outlawed in the year 1540 for having killed a son of Lord Oliphant in a duel, after which he retired with his family to Orkney, where he acquired the estate

of Rapness, in the parish of Westray.¹ He is said to have married Isabel, daughter of Robertson of Strowan, and to have had two sons—

1. David, his heir.
2. William, ancestor of the later line of Tippermalloch.

John Moncreiff of Rapness is further stated to have died about the year 1590, at the advanced age of ninety-two, when he was succeeded by his eldest son—

David Moncreiff of Rapness, who married, first, Barbara, daughter of Baikie of Tankerness,² by whom he had (besides a daughter married to Andrew Young of Castleyards) three sons:—

1. David, who succeeded to the estate of Rapness, and married Margaret, daughter of Anderson of Holmsound, by whom he had an only daughter, Barbara, who married Alexander Hunter of Muirhouse.
 2. Thomas, created a baronet in 1685.
 3. Harry, ancestor of the present Sir Robert Moncreiffe.
- } of whom afterwards.

David Moncreiff of Rapness married, secondly, Mary, daughter of Nisbet of Swannie, by whom he had a son, William, who went to the East Indies, where he acquired a handsome fortune, and left a daughter, Mary, who married Sir Thomas Frederick, knight.

David Moncreiff died during the reign of Charles I., and was succeeded in the estate of Rapness by his eldest son, David, who left no male issue, and the representation of the family was carried on through his

¹ "Of all the islands in Orkney," says an ancient author, "Westray is the most fertile. Here the better sort of people (*genera nobilium*) make their residence."

The first of a later Orkney branch of the Moncreiffs was Alexander Moncreiff, Rector of the Grammar School at Inverness, said to have been descended from the family of Culfargie, who, in 1718, married Christian, daughter and heiress of Robert Halcro of Houton, parish of Orphir (a scion of the ancient Norse family of Halcro), and after his wife's death removed to Orkney. His

great-grandson, Hector Moncreiff of Houton, d. s. p. in 1848, and left his estate to his widow, Isabella (daughter of Thomas Sands of Swanbister), who afterwards married the Rev. Robert Hiddleston. At her death in 1889, the estate became the property of the Indigent Gentlewomen's Fund.

² James Baikie of Tankerness and Thomas his son appear to have been conjunct Sheriffs of Orkney with Patrick Blair of Littleblair and Robert Drummond in 1661.—*Analecta Scotica*,¹ ii. 394.

youngest brother Harry, the account of whose descendants is substantially the same in Douglas and Playfair as in the MS. Pedigree at Moncreiffe, already referred to.¹

We shall now specify the descent of the family as given in that Pedigree. It appears to have been drawn up about the year 1732,² and bears the following title: "An emblematical representation of the Genealogy of James Moncreiffe of Easter Rhynd,³ second son procreated betwixt Sir John Moncreiffe of that Ilk and Margaret Livingstone, daughter of Easter Wemyss (they had also one daughter married to Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy, and had to him one son and one daughter, afterwards Lady Tullibardine), which Sir John was procreated betwixt Sir John Moncreiffe of that Ilk and Dundass, daughter of Dundass of that Ilk."



As here indicated, Sir John Moncreiffe of that Ilk had, by his wife, Margaret Livingstone,⁴ a younger son—

I. JAMES MONCREIFFE, who married Margaret Tyrie, of the House of Drumkilbo,⁵ by whom he had three sons, David, Hugh, and William. The eldest son—

II. DAVID MONCREIFFE, married Isabel Robertson, daughter of the Laird of Strowan,⁶ by whom (besides three daughters, Nichola, married

¹ The two versions of the Genealogy as given in the text will be more easily contrasted in the annexed tabular summary (p. 56).

² Sir William, fourth Baronet of the creation of 1685, who was born in 1732, and succeeded his father in 1739, is simply entered as "William," while his younger brother, Patrick, born in 1733, does not appear.

³ In the Culfargie Tree and Martin's MS., the younger son of Sir John Moncreiffe and Margaret Livingstone is described as the ancestor of the family of Wester Rhynd. In the former his Christian name is not stated, while in the latter he is called *John*. According to both of

these documents, he married *twice*—viz., first, Margaret, daughter of Tyrie of Drumkilbo; secondly, a daughter of the house of Athol; and had, by his first wife, three sons, John, David, and Edmond.

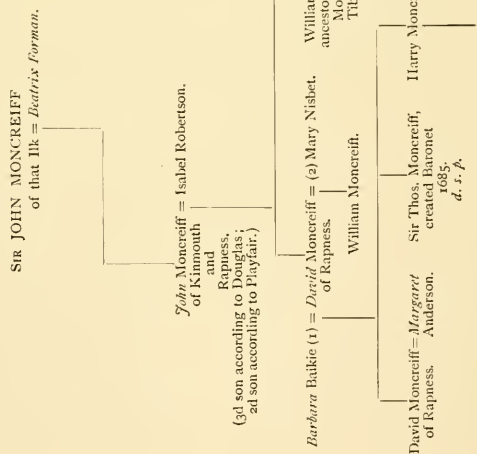
⁴ We have already seen that, according to the Culfargie Tree and Martin's MS., the wife of Sir John Moncreiffe of that Ilk was Margaret Livingstone, while, according to Douglas and Playfair, he married *Beatrix Forman*.

⁵ For various notices of the family of Tyre or Tyrie, see Morris's 'Provosts of Methven,' pp. 3, 27, and 34.

⁶ Her arms are given at the top of p. 57.

DOUGLAS AND PLAYFAIR.

MONCREIFFE MS.



SIR JOHN MONCREIFFE
of that ilk = *Margaret* *Livingstone*.

(1.) James Moncreiffe = Margaret Tyrie.
(2d son.)

(11.) *David* Moncreiffe = Isabel Robertson.

William Moncreiffe, = Margaret
ancestor of the
later line of
Tibbermallo.

(111.) *Thomas* Moncreiffe = *Elizabeth* Baikie.

David Moncreiffe = *Isabel* Anderson.
Sir Thos. Moncreiffe, (IV.) Henry Moncreiffe = *Barbara* Herbert.

Ancestor of the present Sir Robert D. Moncreiffe, Bart.

[The later generations are substantially the same in both accounts of the family.]

to Ballantyne of Stonhouse, Jannet, married to William Craigie of Garsay, and Mary) he had two sons—

1. Thomas, of whom afterwards.
2. William Moncreiffe of Cerar, who married Margaret Nisbet, by whom he had seven sons and three daughters :¹—

(1.) David Moncreiffe of Nether Holland, who married Elizabeth Elphinstone, daughter of the Laird of Lopness, by whom he had a son, William, born in 1666,² and appointed minister of Methven in 1694. The minister of Methven married, in 1698, Bethia, daughter of Sir John Moncrieff

of Tippermalloch, by whom (besides two daughters, Nicolas and Bethia) he had a son, John, minister of Rhynd, who succeeded to the estate of Tippermalloch on the death of his maternal uncle, Sir Hugh Moncrieff, in 1744. The Rev. William Moncrieff was served heir to his father in 1707, and died 6th November 1748.³

(2.) John, who appears to have married and had a son, John.

(3.) Nicoll of Swaney, married, first, to Margaret Balfour of Haroe; and secondly, to Margaret Nisbet.

(4.) James, Collector of H.M.'s Customs at Leith.

(5.) George, "Lieutenant."

(6.) Captain Arthur, married to Anna, daughter of Captain Muat.

(7.) William, minister of Anstruther-Easter.

1st daughter, Anna, married to Henry Erbury (Herbert), Provost of Kirkwall.

2d, Margaret, married to Edward Elphinstone, "brother to Lopness."

3d, Katherine, married to David Ritchie, son of the Chamberlain of Orkney.



¹ "Memoranda made at Moncreiffe"—MS. in possession of Sir Robert Moncreiffe, Bart.

² Kirkwall Register.

³ 'Fasti Eccl. Scot.,' ii. 651.

The eldest son of David Moncreiffe and Isabel Robertson—

III. THOMAS MONCREIFFE (of Rapness), married Elizabeth Baikie of *Burness* (Tankerness?), by whom (besides *two* daughters, Barbara, married to Andrew Young of Castleyards, and Elizabeth, married to Baikie of Tankerness) he had three sons, David, Thomas, and Henry.



1. David, the eldest son, married, in 1659, *Isabel* Anderson,¹ relict of Smyth of Braco, by whom he had a daughter, Barbara, married to Alexander Hunter of Muirhouse.

2. The second son, Thomas, "was Clerk to the Secret but Royal Committee, and was sent by them several times abroad to his Majesty, (Charles II.) in exile."² Shortly after the Restoration (in 1661) he was appointed "Clerk of Exchequer," and subsequently "Collector of King's Share of Prizes."³

As already stated, Thomas purchased the estate of Moncreiffe in the year 1663 from Sir John Moncreiff of that Ilk, second Baronet of the creation of 1626. The MS. account of the family of Moncreiff in the Advocates' Library concludes with the following quaint statement regarding Thomas Moncreiffe: "The fortune is acquired by Thomas Moncreif, who came from Orkney about the year 1648. He married Bethia Hamilton, daughter to Mr Alexander Hamilton, Writer to the Signet. He has been long Clerk to the Exchequer and Thesaurary of Scotland. As yet he has no issue, but is the richest and has the most opulent fortune that ever any of the name had in the kingdom, and is a Knight Baronet, having risen to riches and honour by the favour and means of John Earl of Crawford, Thesaurer of Scotland, and by his own industry and parsimony."

Thomas Moncreiffe appears to have written the minutes and records of the Exchequer, in several volumes of which (1673-82) he is described as

¹ Kirkwall Register. She is erroneously called *Margaret* by Playfair, who states that she was a daughter of Anderson of Holmsound.

² Folio MS. "Common-Place Book, wrote in 1789 by Sir Thomas Moncreiffe (fifth Baronet),

and by him recommended to be carried on by his successors, if it shall please God to continue them."—In the possession of the present Sir Robert Moncreiffe, Bart.

³ Exchequer Writs.

"Thomas Moncreife of that Ilk, Clerk of Exchequer and Clerk of the Treasurie"; and in a subsequent volume (1700-7) he appears as "Sir Thomas Moncreiffe of that Ilk, knight and baronet, Clerk of his Majestie's Treasurie and Exchequer." In the minutes embraced in the third volume of the Parochial Register of Crail, under the date 1684, he is referred to as "the undoubted patron of this kirk, and having a right thereto from the Earle of Crawford," at the presentation of Mr Alexander Lesley, minister in Ceres. He was created a baronet, by royal letters patent to himself and his heirs male, in 1685. He was twice married—first, to Bethia Hamilton, "daughter to the Laird of Bothwell"; and secondly, in 1703, to "Dame Margaret Hope, relict of Sir John Young of Lenie."¹ Sir Thomas Moncreiffe assisted in carrying the Regalia, to and from the Castle of Edinburgh, at the commencement and close of the Sessions of the Scottish Parliament, in 1702 and 1703.

He erected the present mansion-house of Moncreiffe in the year 1679, from plans furnished by Sir William Bruce of Kinross. It is described in the 'New Statistical Account of Scotland' as "nearly of a square form, and resembles the structures of that period"! The house is situated in a beautiful park, at the base of the picturesque hill of Moncreiffe or Moredun (*i.e.*, large hill), the view from the summit² of which is pronounced by Pennant to be "the glory of Scotland." It embraces the "fair" city of Perth, the fertile Carse of Gowrie, the gradually widening Firth of Tay, the richly cultivated valley of the Earn, bounded by the pleasing outline of the Ochil range; and in the distant north-west, the commanding peaks of Benvoirlich, Benmore, and other lofty mountains. The salubrity of the air and the richness of the soil are indicated by the magnificence of the timber in the neighbourhood of the mansion-house.

¹ Marriage Register for the City of Edinburgh.

² "On the summit of Moncreiffe Hill, which is 736 feet above the level of the sea, and of the trap formation, there are distinct traces of a fortification, embracing a circular fosse about sixteen yards in diameter, in the centre of which stood Carnac fort, belonging to the Picts, whose monarchs had their capital in the adjoining parish

of Abernethy during the eighth and ninth centuries.

"A few hundred yards west from Moncreiffe House are the vestiges of a supposed druidical temple, consisting of a circle of eleven rude stones of ten feet in diameter, in the centre of which is an oak planted on the birthday of the late Sir Thomas Moncreiffe."—'New Statistical Account of Scotland,' x. 810.

“Leading from the old Edinburgh road up to the house is a very fine beech avenue from 600 to 700 yards long—one of the trees, taken at random as a fair specimen of the whole, girthing 10 feet 3 inches at 4 feet from the ground. . . . Most of the old trees surrounding Moncreiffe House are oak, beech, ash, and horse-chestnut. . . . One of the oaks girths 17 feet 7 inches at one foot from the ground, and 12 feet 3 inches at 5 feet from the ground—the height of the bole being about 20 feet, the entire height about 90 feet, and the spread of branches about 75 feet. . . . At the west end of the house there is a fine group of seven old horse-chestnuts, of such peculiar formation as to give them a highly rustic and ornamental appearance. . . . The largest tree of all is a horse-chestnut. This tree—believed to be the largest of its kind in Scotland, if not in Britain—girths 20 feet 6 inches at one foot from the ground, and 19 feet at five feet from the ground. At about 10 feet from the ground it diverges into three great limbs, each of which is equal to the stems of ordinary-sized trees. . . . In the pleasure-grounds there is a beautiful cedar of Lebanon, which carried between two and three hundred cones in 1878. It reaches a height of 66 feet, and at 3 feet from the ground it girths 11 feet, the spread of branches being about 64 feet.”¹

The ancient mansion-house of Moncreiffe stood about half-way between the present house and the now roofless chapel of Moncreiffe, which is some 300 yards to the south-east of the modern structure. According to tradition, there was a subterranean communication between the house and the chapel. Within the walls of the latter, which are profusely covered with ivy, repose the remains of many successive generations of the House of Moncrieff, including the families of Tippermalloch and Kinmouth. As already stated, Douglas mentions that Duncan Moncrieff of that Ilk and his lady were both interred there in the year 1357. The dimensions of the ancient edifice are 30 feet long by 18 feet broad, and the walls are about 10 feet in height. It has a north aisle with a vault and a small belfry at the east gable, of which the old bell is still preserved in Moncreiffe House.

The arms of Sir Thomas Moncreiffe and of his lady, “Dam. Bethia Hamilton,” are somewhat rudely sculptured over the principal door of Moncreiffe House: Dexter, a lion rampant and a chief ermine—Sinister, three cinquefoils and an uncharged chief. To that lady the parish of Dunbarny is indebted for two silver communion-cups, which also bear her own and her husband’s armorial ensigns, with the following inscription :

¹ Hunter’s ‘Woods, Forests, and Estates of Perthshire,’ p. 133 *et seq.*

"Dam. Bethia Hamilton, spouse to Sir Thomas Moncreif of that Ilk, left in legacy these two cups to the Church of Dunbarnie, Anno Domini MDCCIII." According to the notice of the parish in the 'New Statistical Account of Scotland,' Lady Moncreiffe also bequeathed a large silver baptismal plate. This, however, appears to be an erroneous statement, if, at least, it applies to the existing baptismal basin, on which are engraved the arms of Moncreiffe, impaled with those of *Hope* (a chevron between three

S. D.

besants), with the initials T. M. and M. H., and the date 1707—Sir Thomas (as already stated) having married, secondly, in 1703, "Dame Margaret Hope," relict of Sir John Young of Lenie.¹

Among the numerous writs at Moncreiffe House are some curious accounts and letters relative to this Sir Thomas. From an "Account of Wines supplied to the Lords of the Treasury," it appears that Sir Thomas received one hogshead of wine and four gallons of sack, during the year ending November 1691. On the 15th of May, in the same year, we find, from an account of "Hearth Money paid in the Barony of Moncreiffe," that the same laird paid for twenty-eight hearths the sum of £19, 12s. The names and amounts of all the other parties are given, a receipt being sub-joined for the entire sum, amounting to £74, 4s. There is another receipt for £3, 10s., dated 29th April 1691, for five hearths in Sir Thomas Moncreiffe's "lodging in Edinburgh."

On the 9th of March 1696, William Moncreiffe (Professor of Humanity in the University of Aberdeen?) writes from Geneva to Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, stating his intention of going with Lord Breadalbane's son to Rome during "Holy Week," and thence to Naples and Florence for the summer. In referring to his great outlay for travelling he says: "I have not drawn on you since our arrival here; my reason was to let what Lord Breadalbane gives me for waiting on his son run up in your hand. . . . I have drawn this day on you 757 gild: current." He concludes by saying, "Your nephew² is very well." From Utrecht, on the 26th of April 1697, he again writes as follows: "Your nephew is not at all troubled with that

¹ Marriage Register of the City of Edinburgh.

youngest brother Harry, who ultimately suc-

² Probably Thomas, eldest son of Sir Thomas's succeeded his uncle.

distemper you fear, blessed be God! . . . As for the book, you'll easily believe that, having spent so much time in travelling and seeing things, all which have their own use, he cannot have studied so much as if he had always resided in one place; but he hath got these fond^s [foundations], which, with his own industry, will be sufficient for advancing him in anything he sets himself to. He can apply himself sufficiently, and does take pleasure in studying. You know he is young as yet, and not of the age of entering advocate to any purpose." After referring to the young man's desire to remain a year at Utrecht for study, the writer adds: "Mr Campbell and I want but orders for our coming over. In case I receive peremptory orders from my Lord Breadalbane, I cannot stay longer."

In a letter from Thomas Gordon to Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, dated Old Aberdeen, 9th April 1701, he mentions the arrival of a "young gentleman" recommended to his care by Sir Thomas, and states that he had not yet had time to test his proficiency in Latin, but promises to give his opinion shortly as to whether the young man should enter college, or remain "ane yeir longer at his Humanities. He is at present [he adds] my bed-fellow, and shall continue to be so, except I find a comerad that will be fitt for him." The young gentleman in question appears to have been William Stewart,¹ respecting whom the same correspondent writes to Sir Thomas Moncreiffe on the 16th of April 1701, mentioning that he had taken trial of Mr Stewart's proficiency in Latin, and found him further advanced than he expected. He specifies the books which were required for his preparation for the next college session—viz., Clenard's Greek Grammar, with Antesignanus notes, a Greek New Testament of a good character and free from contractions, and the Orations of Isocrates, in Greek and Latin. He states the cost of his board to be £40 per quarter; and as to the Regent's allowance, the more liberal it is, the more carefully will Mr Stewart be attended to! After alluding to certain disbursements on behalf of the said William Stewart, Gordon adds: "I continue very well satisfied with Will's carriage and proficiency. Since the rising of the colledge he hath gone over the Logicks and Metaphysicks, read the most part of Buchanan's 'History,' and is very

¹ A nephew of Sir Thomas (?).

busie with the Geographie, notwithstanding that he is frequentlie afflicted with a paine in his head that's very uneasy to him, and recurs very often, and I'm afraid it will be necessary to take the advice of some physitian anent it."

Finally, David Johnstone writes from Fordell, on the 18th of April 1701, to Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, "at his ludging a litle above the cross of Edinburgh," to the following effect: "I hear that Margaret Ward, that firebrand that your honour was so much troubled with at Martemas last, who I am sure is not cannie (God keep me from hir evill designs !), hath a mind to come in and pay your honour for crope 99." He warns Sir Thomas against her, and speaks very complacently about his own fidelity in managing the estate.

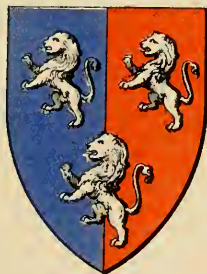
Sir Thomas died without issue, 15th January 1715,¹ in the 89th year of his age, and was succeeded by the eldest son of his younger brother.

3. The third son of David Moncreiffe of Rapness was Harry.

As already stated, David Moncreiffe died in the reign of Charles I., and was succeeded in the estate of Rapness by his eldest son David, who left no male issue, and the representation of the family was carried on through his youngest brother—

IV. HARRY MONCREIFFE, who married Barbara, daughter of Harry Herbert, Esq., of Cardiff, Provost of Kirkwall (?),² by whom he had three sons:—

1. Thomas, who succeeded his uncle, Sir Thomas.
2. Henry, of Rapness, married, in 1713, to Anna, eldest daughter of John Brisbane of Bishoptown.³
3. David, Provost-Marshal General of Jamaica, where he died before February 1739. By his Will he devised his estate and



¹ Tombstone at Moncreiffe.

² The Kirkwall Register contains an entry relative to the marriage, in 1676, of Harie Moncreife, Skipper, and Barbara, daughter of Harie *Erbrie* (Herbert), Merchant. In the Moncreiffe "Genco-

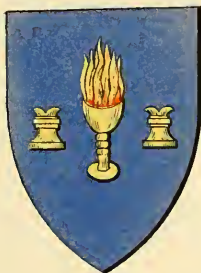
logy" Barbara's father is "said to have been a son of the Earl of Pembroke, residing in Orkney on account of some affair of honour."

³ Mackenzie Office, General Register House, vol. 112. February 26, 1713.

effects in Jamaica to his nephew, Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, third Baronet, who died shortly afterwards.

As already stated, on the death of Sir Thomas Moncreiffe without issue, in 1715, he was succeeded by his nephew—

V. Sir THOMAS MONCREIFFE, as second Baronet, who married, in 1701, Margaret, eldest daughter of Patrick (David ?) Smythe of Braco and Methven, by whom he had two sons and three daughters :—



1. Thomas, his successor.

2. David, born in 1710,¹ became a member of the Faculty of Advocates at an early age, and was appointed Joint Deputy King's Remembrancer in 1743, and Sole Deputy in 1752. He also appears to have held, about the same time, the office of Deputy Secre-

tary Chamberlain, and Receiver-General for the Principality of Scotland.² In 1766 he was appointed "Solicitor of Taxes," and fifteen years later (18th July 1781) he became one of the Barons of Exchequer, in which office he was succeeded by Archibald Cockburn (father of Lord Cockburn) in 1790.³

"His temper was naturally distant and reserved; and far from seeking those intimacies which usually contribute to bring many a person of inferior ability into practice, he rather shunned than courted society. . . . He continued all his life a bachelor; and, although by no means parsimonious, amassed a considerable fortune."⁴ Kay, in his MS. notes, mentions that Baron Moncreiffe succeeded in securing a matrimonial alliance between his nephew, Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, and Lady Elizabeth Ramsay, daughter of the Earl of Dalhousie. On the celebration of the marriage, the Baron presented handsome gifts to all his nephew's domestics, in honour of the event; but "the marriage did not realize that felicity which the good-

¹ Parochial Register of Dunbarny.

² 'Scots Magazine,' 1745.

³ Exchequer Writs. Baron Moncreiffe died

17th April 1790, aged eighty. His portrait will be found in Kay's well-known work.

⁴ Kay's 'Portraits,' i. 193.

hearted bachelor had so fondly anticipated. It is possible that neither party had consulted their own feelings in the matter; but, be that as it may, the Baron conceived that the lady had been indifferently treated by his nephew, and he did not hesitate to say so. At his death, as a substantial proof of his esteem for the one, and his disapprobation of the conduct of the other, he left the lady his estate of Moredun, and all the other property of which he could deprive his heir-at-law."

Baron Moncreiffe was the owner of Galloway House, Horse Wynd, Edinburgh,—“a tall, well-built mansion, with urns on the top,”—in which the beautiful Countess of Galloway¹ resided for many years. He was also the proprietor of Moredun, formerly Goodtrees, in the vicinity of Edinburgh, the name of which he himself changed, out of compliment to his birthplace in Perthshire. Goodtrees was successively the property of the Herrieses, the Somervilles, the MacCullochs, the Steuarts of Coltness, and the Mackenzies of Delvine, from whom it was purchased by Baron Moncreiffe in the year 1769. He appears to have “greatly ornamented” the house and grounds.²

¹ Daughter of John, fourth Earl of Dundonald, and the subject of one of Hamilton of Bangour's poetical tributes. She died at Bath in 1786.—Chambers's ‘Traditions of Edinburgh,’ ii. 36.

² The following detailed description of Moredun is from an interesting account of the parish of Liberton by the Rev. Thomas Whyte, minister of the parish, 1752-89:—

“Around the garden, next the house, is a large gravel walk, with a green terrace to the south, in which, from a certain station, there is a view of the Castle of Craigmillar, of the Castle of Edinburgh, and of the tower and fortalice of Upper Liberton. On the west corner, parallel to the house, is a beautiful artificial mount, on which are two stately and majestic elms. In the garden, south of this, are two hothouses—the eastern one for pine-apples, and that on the west for vines. On the south-west corner, without the wall, is another hothouse for pine-apples. In the garden east from this, adjoining to the north wall of the other garden, is a hothouse no less

than 256 feet in length, for peaches and nectarines. And south-east from this, in the same garden, is another hothouse, but much smaller, for early vines. Here peaches, nectarines, and various other rich fruits, appear earlier, and in greater perfection, than anywhere else. The fruit-trees upon the walls are very exuberant, and make a most splendid appearance in the season; nothing can possibly exceed it. The greatest order is observed with respect to the gardens, and everything is directed and managed with utmost exactness and propriety. Strangers greatly admire them, and so doth every person of taste who visits them.

“Around the enclosure, which is considerably extensive, on the north side of the avenue of limes which runs parallel to the house, is a gravel walk, with various covered seats at proper distances. On each side is a shrubbery, which is very agreeable, and has a fine aspect. On the east side of this enclosure, upon the wall, are excellent fruits. The field likewise is diversified

From an entry in the Lyon Register, dated 5th December 1768, Baron Moncreiffe appears to have assumed the surname of Steuart as "heir of provision and representative of the deceased William Steuart, Esquire, Remembrancer in Exchequer," and his armorial bearings are there recorded as follows: "David Steuart Moncreiffe, Esquire, bears, quarterly, First grand quarter, quarterly, 1st and 4th or, a fesse chequy azure and argent, and in chief a garb of the second; 2d and 3d argent, a lymphad sable, all within a bordure gules, for Steuart. Second grand quarter, argent, a lion rampant gules, armed and langued azure; a chief ermine, and a crescent of the third in fess, for Moncreiffe. Third grand quarter, as the second; Fourth, as the first. *Crest*—A unicorn's head and neck argent, maned or, horned gules. *Motto*—in an escrol above, Quidder will sie; and below, Sûr Espérance."

Of Sir Thomas Moncreiffe's three daughters, the second, Jean, born 1712, died unmarried; while Margaret, the eldest, born 1707, married in 1740¹ Lieutenant-General Gordon of Auchintoul; and Janet, the youngest, born 1715, married in 1768² the Hon. Captain Charles Maitland-Barclay of Tillicoultry, second son of Charles second Earl of Lauderdale.³

After the death of his uncle (the first Baronet), Sir Thomas Moncreiffe sold the lands of Fordell for £5555, and invested a portion of that sum in the purchase of Boghall, Craigie, and Magdalans. In the printed papers connected with a litigation, which reached the House of Lords, between the creditors of his son, Sir Thomas, third Baronet, and his grandson, Sir William, fourth Baronet (upwards of twenty years after Sir William's

by two sunk fences, by various stately trees in different places, as if they had fallen accidentally from the hand of nature; and, in the lower part, is intersected by a beautiful winding rivulet. Over it is a handsome timber bridge. On both sides of the rivulet is a good deal of pleasure-ground, which contains a great many charming walks, and a variety of other embellishments. Here is a Chinese temple; here are diverse statues, which are very elegant, and considered as masterpieces of the kind."—*'Archæologia Scotica,'* i. 321. See also *'Quarterly Review,'* xxiv. 408.

¹ *'Scots Magazine.'*

² *Ibid.*

³ Captain Maitland-Barclay's task in improving the parish of Tillicoultry, as well as his "sweetness of temper and benevolence of heart," are specially referred to in the *'Old Statistical Account of Scotland'* (xv. 194). He was thrice married—first, to Isabel Barclay, heiress of Towie, when he assumed his wife's surname; second, to a daughter of Patrick Haldane of Gleneagles; and thirdly, to Janet Moncreiffe, who survived her husband, and died at Ormistoun Lodge in November 1799.

succession), it is stated that, while he inherited the lands and barony of Moncreiffe and Fordell, besides a large personal estate, he “conceived a very unreasonable prejudice against his eldest son (the third Baronet), and formed a most unjust scheme of stripping him, as far as he could, of the benefit of his marriage settlement,” by augmenting his wife’s jointure, making large additions to his daughters’ fortunes, and conveying to his second son, David (afterwards a Baron of Exchequer), the estate of Boghall and bonds for considerable sums.¹

On the death of Sir Thomas, in 1738, he was succeeded by his eldest son—

VI. Sir THOMAS MONCREIFFE of Moncreiffe, third Baronet, born 31st December 1704, who married, 2d June 1730, Catharine (born 7th June 1711), third daughter of Sir William Murray of Ochtertyre, Baronet, by whom he had (besides Thomas, born 1731, and James, born 1734, who both died in infancy) two sons—

1. William, his successor.
2. Patrick, an officer in the army, born 3d July 1733.

From a quarto Family Bible at Moncreiffe (1726) it appears that Thomas, the eldest son, was born in the House of Foulis, and the three

others in Dundee; that James, the youngest, “was buried in the burial-place of Mr Mungo Murray, merchant in Dundee, brother-german to Sir Patrick Moray of Ochtertyre”; and that “Mrs Katharine Moncreiffe, spouse to Thomas Moncreiffe, younger of that Ilk, died 24th June 1735, and was buried within the quire of the church of Foulis.” To that entry the following specific injunction is appended: “I hereby require my heires and suc^{rs}, in case it shall please God to call for me, to erect a fine marble monument over the body of Mrs Katharine Moncreiffe, my spouse, within the quire of the church of Foulis, conformed to the plan and last Will left in the hands of Mr Alex^r Blair of Balmyle, writer in Edinburg, and my

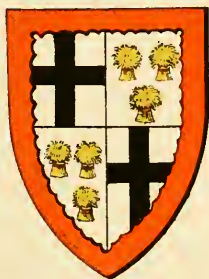


¹ Two of the rival counsel in the litigation were Alexander Wedderburn and Henry Dundas.

factor, and case (*sic*) of his decease to be deposited in the hands of any of the surviving tutors."

Sir Thomas Moncreiffe died in April 1739, the year after his father, when he was succeeded by his eldest son—

VII. Sir WILLIAM MONCREIFFE of Moncreiffe, fourth Baronet, born 11th February 1732. He married Clara



Guthrie, of the family of Craigie, Forfarshire, by whom (besides a daughter Jean, who married Adam Cuninghame of Bonnington, in the county of Mid-Lothian) he had an only son and successor. It appears that, on the 17th of June 1743, this lady sent her servant with "garden things" to Lord Arniston at Shien, near Amulree, whither he had gone for goat-whey. In a letter to his wife,

his lordship pronounces the gift to have been "very welcome, we having nothing of the kind."¹

Sir William Moncreiffe died in September 1784, and was succeeded by his son—

VIII. Sir THOMAS MONCREIFFE of Moncreiffe, fifth Baronet, born 7th June 1758—ensign 36th Foot (1774), and cornet 10th Dragoons (1776)—who married, 13th August 1786, Lady Elizabeth Ramsay, eldest surviving daughter of George, ninth Earl of Dalhousie (who died 3d June 1848), by whom he had an only son, David, and a daughter, Georgina-Elizabeth, born 1790, who married, in 1818, George-Augustus, second Earl of Bradford, and died in 1842.



The 'Common-Place Book' at Moncreiffe contains, *inter alia*, an interesting account of two tours made by Sir Thomas Moncreiffe on the Continent in 1785 and (after his marriage) 1788.

¹ Omond's 'Arniston Memoirs,' p. 95. In 1748 Lord Arniston became Lord President of the Court of Session, in succession to Duncan Forbes of Culloden. His son was also President.

Sir Thomas died 26th March 1818, when he was succeeded by his only son—

IX. Sir DAVID MONCREIFFE of Moncreiffe, as sixth Baronet. Sir David was born 31st December 1788, and married, 12th January 1819, Helen, second daughter of Æneas Mackay of Scotstoun,¹ by whom he had two sons and two daughters :—

1. Thomas, his heir.

2. William-Æneas, born 1825.

1st daughter, Helen, married, in 1844, Edmund Wright, Esq. of Halston Hall, Shropshire, and died 22d May 1874.

2d, Elizabeth, born 1826.



Sir David Moncreiffe was appointed captain in the Perthshire Yeomanry Cavalry, in terms of a commission from the Duke of Athole, on the 13th of December 1820; and towards the end of the following year he became a Fellow of the Literary and Antiquarian Society of Perth. He bequeathed to the parish school of Dunbarny a bursary of £100 Scots, to be awarded as a prize to the best classical scholar; and died 20th November 1830, when he was succeeded by his eldest son—

X. Sir THOMAS MONCREIFFE of Moncreiffe, seventh Baronet, born 9th January 1822. He entered the Grenadier Guards in 1839, and retired about three years afterwards. He was appointed a lieutenant-colonel of the Perthshire Militia in 1846, and became lieutenant-colonel commandant, with the rank of honorary colonel, in 1855. In his later life, as one of the Vice-Lieutenants of Perthshire, he was most assiduous in his attention to local affairs, and his action was invariably characterised by breadth of view and honesty of purpose. In politics he was a staunch Conservative; and, as chairman of the county Conservative committee and otherwise, he did yeoman work for the party at various contested elections, including those of 1874, when the county regained its lost honour by the

¹ Lady Moncreiffe married secondly, in 1849, (ready mentioned), and died at Cannes, 22d George-Augustus, second Earl of Bradford (al- April 1869.

election of the lamented Sir William Stirling-Maxwell, and 1878, when Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. Home-Drummond-Moray was returned as Sir William's successor. His sympathies, however, were not bounded by political considerations. In all that concerned the welfare of his tenantry and the inhabitants of his own district he always took an active and friendly interest.

The city of Perth has good reason to cherish the memory of Sir Thomas Moncreiffe. As one of the original promoters and most zealous members of the Society of Natural Science, he did much to advance intelligence and to extend a spirit of social intercourse. His name was well known in connection with field-sports and athletics. An excellent shot, he was a judicious preserver of game; and, like the late Lord Derby, he was so popular in his own neighbourhood, that the farmers and peasantry would have endured a good deal rather than interfere with his pleasure. Some years before his death, Sir Thomas resolved to let the shooting on a detached farm in the parish of Trinity Gask.

"It was about to be taken for three years by a Glasgow gentleman, when the tenant (whose family had rented the lands for several generations) asked Sir Thomas to let *him* have it, on the proposed terms. To this the landlord at once agreed, and was severely 'tackled' by some of his alarmist friends for so doing. 'Don't you see, Moncreiffe,' they said, 'that's just what *these fellows* want—to get in the thin end of the wedge, and then the Deluge!' 'We shall see,' replied the sound-hearted squire. Two years passed away, and one day Sir Thomas had occasion to go to Trinity Gask. His tenant inquired when 'Mr Robert' (the present baronet, then at Eton) was likely to be following in his father's steps in the matter of sport, as he was beginning to get tired of the gun; and wound up by saying—'I am glad, Sir Thomas, to be able to assure you that at the end of my lease you will find a better head of game than I did at the beginning.'"¹

As a golfer, Sir Thomas was acknowledged to be a first-rate player; and his kindly feeling and lively manner found an appropriate vent in his enthusiastic pursuit of the "roaring game."

He was patron of the parish of Dunbarny, which formerly was in the gift of the Town Council of Edinburgh.

¹ Seton's 'Budget of Anecdotes,' 2d edition, No. 325.

Sir Thomas Moncreiffe married, 2d May 1843, Lady Louisa Drummond-Hay, eldest daughter of Thomas-Robert, tenth Earl of Kinnoull, by whom he had eight sons and eight daughters :—

1. David-Maule, born 1854, died 1857.
 2. Robert-Drummond, born 3d November 1856.
 3. Thomas-George-Harry, born October 1860; married, 31st August 1883, Elizabeth, daughter of John Muir, Esq. of Deanston, county Perth; and died 26th March 1887, leaving issue: (1) John-Robert-Guy, born at Calcutta, 30th June 1884; (2) Thomas-Gerald-Auckland, born 13th September 1886.
 4. William, born 1862.
 5. Ronald, Lieutenant Worcestershire Yeomanry Cavalry, born 1864.
 6. Malcolm, born 1866.
 7. Claude, born 1869, and died in infancy.
 8. John-Alexander, Lieutenant Worcestershire Regiment, born 1871.
- 1st daughter, Louisa, married, in 1863, to John, seventh Duke of Athole.
- 2d, Helen, married, in 1864, Charles-John, eldest son of Sir Charles Forbes, Bart. of Newe and Edinglassie, afterwards Sir Charles-John Forbes, Bart., who died in 1884.
- 3d, Georgina-Elizabeth, married, in 1865, to William, first Earl of Dudley, who died 7th May 1885.
- 4th, Harriet-Sarah, married, in 1866, to Sir Charles Mordaunt, Baronet, late M.P. for South Warwickshire, from whom she was divorced 11th March 1875.
- 5th, Blanche, married, in 1878, to Charles-Archibald Murray, Esq., nephew of the fourth Earl of Mansfield.
- 6th, Frances-Rose, married, in 1871, to Sir Alexander Muir-Mackenzie, Baronet, of Delvine.
- 7th, Selina, married, in 1869, Major William Arbuthnot, 14th Hussars,

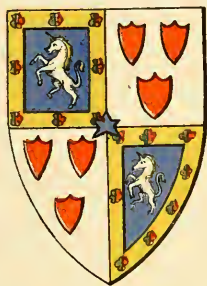


nephew of Sir Robert-Keith Arbuthnot, Baronet, and died 26th November 1877.

8th, Mary-Katherine, married, in 1880, to Basil-Templer, late Lieutenant 60th Rifles, second son of Sir Graham Graham-Montgomery, Baronet.

The unexpected death of Sir Thomas Moncreiffe was caused by the acute recurrence of a painful internal complaint, from which he had suffered for several years. After an illness of barely a week's duration, he died at Moncreiffe House, 16th August 1879, when he was succeeded by his eldest surviving son—

X. Sir ROBERT-DRUMMOND MONCREIFFE of Moncreiffe, eighth Baronet, late Lieutenant Scots Guards, now Major 4th Vol. Batt. Black Watch, born 3d November 1856, who married, 6th April 1880, Evelyn-Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Colonel the Hon. Charles-Rowley Hay, and niece of the eleventh Earl of Kinnoull.



Sir Robert is patron of two bursaries which bear his surname, of which the one is to St Mary's and the other St Salvator's College, St Andrews. Originally founded by Henry

White, Dean of Brechin, they were afterwards disposed to Sir John Moncreiff of that Ilk, and subsequently augmented by Sir Thomas Moncreiffe in 1701.¹

There is a very large collection of charters and other family papers at Moncreiffe House, of which a detailed inventory, with *résumé* of contents, was prepared for the late Sir Thomas Moncreiffe by the Rev. Walter Macleod of Edinburgh. On the inside of one of the

S.
oldest charter-boxes are the arms and initials (I. M.) of Sir John Moncreiff, first Baronet of the older creation, and the date 1636, which also appear on the quaint key.

¹ Report of the Royal Commissioners for St Andrews, 1827.

Among the portraits at Moncreiffe are the following :—

Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, second Baronet, and his wife Margaret Smythe of Methven.

Allan Ramsay.

Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, third Baronet, and his wife Catharine Murray of Ochtertyre.

Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, fifth Baronet, in the costume of the Perth Hunt. *Martin.*

Sir David Moncreiffe, sixth Baronet. An early work of *Sir Francis Grant.*

Baron David Moncreiffe, in gown and bands, with powdered wig.

Janet Moncreiffe, daughter of Sir Thomas, second Baronet, and wife of the Hon.

Charles Maitland-Barclay. *Allan Ramsay.*

William Steuart, King's Remembrancer in Exchequer. *Allan Ramsay.*

Ludovic-Gollofridus de Gordon (born 1740).

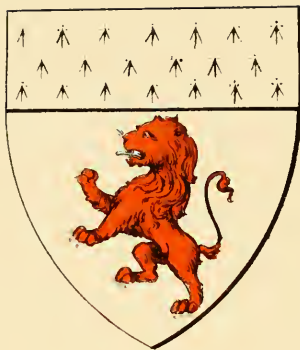
George-William-Josephus de Gordon (born 1747).

Figure in Armour. *Sir John Medina.*

Arms—Argent, a lion rampant between two mullets gules; a chief ermine. *Crest*—A demi-lion gules. *Motto*—Sûre Espérance.

Granted to Thomas Moncreiffe of that Ilk, 9th February 1673, by Sir Charles Erskine, Lyon King of Arms.





THE MONCRIEFS OF KINTILLO, AFTERWARDS OF CULFARGIE AND BARNHILL.



WILLIAM MONCRIEFF of that Ilk, who flourished in the beginning of the sixteenth century, married Margaret Murray, of the family of Balvaird, by whom he had, besides other issue, a son—

I. ALEXANDER MONCRIEFF, whose descendants can be very distinctly traced, by means of numerous entries in the Public Records, as well as by various documents in the possession of the present representative of the family. While Douglas erroneously states that the said Alexander "died without issue," Playfair circumstantially deduces from him the descent of the Moncrieffs of Kintillo, afterwards of Culfargie and Barnhill, stating somewhat gratuitously that "it is no more than justice to families still subsisting to mention their pedigree, when it is so well known as the history of this family is." Although inaccurate in several particulars, Playfair's account substantially corresponds with the statements

in the old genealogical tree already referred to, and also, in the case of the three first generations, with the notice of the family in Martin's MS. Both Douglas and Playfair make Alexander the third son of his father, but from the tree and Martin's MS. he appears to have been the *fourth* son.

The statement in the tree is as follows :—

“ Sr William married Margaret Murray of the House of Balvaird—had 4 sons and 5 daughters [to the latter of whom it is unnecessary here to refer].

Sr William married [Jean] Oliphant, daug^r. of [Lord] Oliphant—had ——— sons and 3 daug^{rs}.

Mr John Mon.

James married.

Alexander Moncreiff of Kintillo married. Mathew of Kintillo his sonne succeeded. To Mathew William succeeded.”

The portion of the pedigree in which this statement occurs is described, on a kite-shaped leaf, as “The Family of Kintillo.” In like manner, the notice of the family of William Moncreiff of that Ilk, by Margaret Murray, in the Martin MS., is to the following effect :—

“ She bore to him these four sons and five daughters—Sir William, James, Mr John, and Alexander Moncreifs; and Jean, Elizabeth, Isobell, Helen, and Margaret Moncreifs.

Sir William, his eldest son, succeeded to him.

James Moncreif, his second son.

Mr John Moncreif, his third son.

Alexander Moncreif, his fourth son, was Laird of Kintullo.

He married ———, who bore to him Mathew Moncreif, who succeeded to him in Kintullo. This Mathew Moncreif married ———, and [she] bore to him William Moncreif, who succeeded to his father in the lands of Kintullo.”

The marriages of the five daughters—all important connections—are then duly detailed.

In Pitcairn's ‘Criminal Trials,’¹ there is a record of Alexander Moncrief, son of Williame Moncrief of that Ilk, having been charged, on the 26th of October 1565, with having treasonable intercommuning with the

¹ Vol. i., Part ii., p. 466.

Duke of Chattellarault and other rebels, taking wages to serve against the Queen, and putting himself in arms under William Moncrief of that Ilk, younger, and James Kirkcaldy of Grange. He was sentenced "to be hedit and quarterit"; but the execution was delayed "at the King and Queene's grace commandement," and we are informed, in a note, that meantime he was ordered to be strictly warded in the Castle of Edinburgh. It does not appear when he was liberated, but some thirty years later—15th June 1594—we find, from the records of the Sheriff Court of Perth, that Alexander Moncrieff and William Moncrieff of that Ilk protested,



on John Merse being served heir to Laurens, his deceased brother, in the lands of Kyntullocht; and the first of the two protesters was doubtless the youthful insurgent of 1565. According to Playfair, he married Christian, daughter of Crichton of Strathurd; but it appears from the following entry in the Parochial Register of Dunbarny that the Christian name of his wife (whom he survived) was *Euphemia*: "8 December 1610—De-

pairtit Alex^r. Moncrieff, spouse to umq^l. Euphame Crichtoun in Kintillow."

On the supposition that Alexander Moncrieff of Kintillo was twenty-five years of age when he became accessory to the Duke of Chattellarault's treason, he must have been seventy at the date of his death in 1610.

Alexander Moncrieff of Kintillo was succeeded by his eldest son—

II. MATTHEW MONCRIEFF of Kintillo.

That Matthew was Alexander's *eldest* son appears from the entry in the records of the Sheriff Court of Perth—dated June 1594—connected with the service of John Merse, already referred to. From the circumstance of his being there described as the "eldest son of Alexander Moncrief, portioner of Kyntulloch," it may be inferred that he had one or more younger brothers, of whose names, however, we can find no trace. From an entry in the sixth volume of the Secretary's Register of Sasines for Perthshire, dated 5th December 1607, it appears that the

name of Matthew's wife was Margaret Murray;¹ while it further appears, from several entries in the General Register of Sasines (Book 17, fol. 11 *et seq.*) that his eldest son was William, and that William was married to Helen Moncrieff, daughter of Nathaniel Moncrieff of Randerston. The purport of the principal of these entries is as follows: 28th October 1624. — Sasine of William Moncrieff, "*filius legitimus natu maximus et heres apparens*" of Matthew Moncrieff, portioner of Kintillo, in implement of marriage-contract between the said Matthew, with consent of *Margaret Murray*, his wife, as taking burden on them for the said William on the one part, and Nathaniel Moncrieff of Randerston, as taking burden for *Helen Moncrieff*, spouse of the said William, dated at Randerston and Kintillo, 23d April and 2d June 1624, whereby the said Matthew disposes to the said William and Helen in conjunct fee, and their heirs male, that portion of Kintillo commonly called "the sixteen mark land" of Kintillo.



From the Parochial Register of Dunbarny—which appears to have been very carefully kept at the beginning of the seventeenth century—the date of William's birth (or rather *baptism*), as well as the dates of the baptism of at least six of Matthew Moncrieff's other children, can be clearly ascertained. The relative entries are as follows:—

"(1) 9th January 1600.—Bap. *William* Moncrieff, sone to Mathew Moncrieff. Witnes, William Moncrieff of that Ilk, and George Moncrieff, vicar of Dunbarnij.

(2) 21 Julij 1601.—Bap. *Agnes* Moncrieff, dochter to Mathew Moncrieff. Witnes, William Moncrieff of that Ilk and Mr William Ruthwen.

(3) 27 November 1603.—Bap. *Elisabeth* Moncrieff, dochter to Mathew Moncrieff. Witnes, Patrik Carnie and Hew Moncrieff.

¹ Playfair calls her Grizel Mauld, without, however, giving any authority for his statement. Possibly Matthew may have been *twice* married, but it is more probable that the error arises from the

fact of *another* Matthew Moncrieff, the first of the family of Easter Moncrieff, having married Christian Mauld.

(4) 8 Junij 1605.—Bap. *Mathew* Moncrieff, sone to Mathew Moncrieff in Kintillow. Witnes, William Moncrieff of that Ilk, Mr William Ruthwen, and Mathew Chaipe.

(5) 14 Julij 1608.—Bap. *Ihone* Moncrieff, sone to Mathew Moncrieff in Kintillow. Witnes, Sir Jhone Moncrieff of Kinmouth, Kny^t. George Moncrieff, Thomas Moncrieff.

(6) 19 November 1609.—Bap. *Mathew* Moncrieff, sone to Mathew Moncrieff in Kintillow. Witnes, Sir Jhone Moncrieff of Kinmouth, Kny^t. Mr Coline Ramsay, Andrew Balvaird in Abernethie, and Mathew Weymes.

(7) 16 December 1613.—Bap. the said day *Alex^r*. Moncrieff, sone to Mathew Moncrieff, portioner of Kintillow. Witnes, Niniane Olyphant of Ower Cultuquhair, and Ihone Bonar, po^r. of Kilgriston."

The William mentioned in the first of these seven entries is manifestly Matthew Moncrieff's "eldest son," already referred to.

The fourth entry relates to his second son Matthew, who appears to have died soon after his birth in 1605, as the baptism of a *second* Matthew occurs in the sixth entry, dated 19th November 1609.

The fifth entry relates to Matthew's third son, John, afterwards proprietor of Culfargie; the sixth entry, to his fourth son, Matthew (No. 2), afterwards of Easter Rhynd; and the seventh entry, to his fifth and youngest son, Alexander, afterwards minister of Scoonie.

Although only two daughters (Agnes and Elizabeth) are embraced in these entries, Matthew Moncrieff of Kintillo appears to have had at least *three* daughters—viz., Isabella, Anne (Agnes?), and Elizabeth, who are distinctly mentioned in a confirmation to their father of an annual rent of 300 merks out of the lands of Ballrogy, in terms of a contract with John Crichton of Strathurd, dated 29th May 1610.¹ Anne (or Annas) married Laurence Oliphant, brother of Mr Ninian Oliphant of Ardargie, her tocher being 3500 merks, as appears from the relative contract, dated at Perth, 12th November 1625.²

The order of Matthew Moncrieff's younger sons who reached manhood appears from an entry in the General Register of Deeds,³ dated 4th March

¹ Registrum Sigilli Magni, vol. 462, No. 390—27th July 1611.

² General Register of Deeds, Hay Office, Gen-

eral Register House, vol. 468—17th Dec. 1633.

³ Vol. 503, Scott Office, General Register House.

1637, relative to certain bonds granted to him and his sons by Viscount Kenmure, in which John, Matthew (No. 2), and Alexander are respectively described as his "second," "third," and "fourth" sons.

It is somewhat curious to find, from the ninth volume of the Particular Register of Sasines for Perthshire, that, in the year 1639, Matthew Moncrieff of Kintillo was "seized" in the lands of *Barnhill*, which were purchased about a hundred and forty years afterwards from Sir Stewart Thriepland by his lineal representative, Alexander Moncrieff of Culfargie. The purport of the relative entry is as follows: 20th August 1639.—Sasine of Matthew Moncrieff, senior, portioner of Kintillo, in liferent, and Matthew Moncrieff, junior, his son, on charter of vendition by George Earl of Kinnoull, under reversion of the lands of Barnhill, with the whole islands and meadows within the water of Tay belonging to the Barony of Kinnoull, 26th July 1639.¹

In an entry in the General Register of Sasines dated 25th June 1650, relative to the sasine of Major John Moncrieff, on a charter by Sir John Brown of Fordell, Knight, of the lands of Culfargie, in the barony of Abernethy and shire of Perth, he is described as the son of the late Matthew Moncrieff, portioner of Kintillo,—his elder brother, William Moncrieff of Kintillo, being one of the witnesses. It would therefore appear that Matthew was dead before the date of the entry; and as it is clear from the Culfargie Writs that he was alive in 1647, his death must have occurred between 1647 and 1650. Matthew was succeeded by his eldest son—



III.* William Moncrieff of Kintillo, born in 1600, who, as already stated, married (c. 1624) Helen, daughter of Nathaniel Moncrieff of Randerston.

William Moncrieff of Kintillo and Alexander "his sone" appear as

¹ From an entry in the Sheriff Court Books of Perth (vol. ix.), Barnhill appears to have been in the possession of the family of Moncrieff at a still earlier date: 5th October 1585.—"James Mon-

crefe of Barnehill, caution for James Keir," appointed one of the ordinary "mairis" of the Sheriffdom of Perth by John Earl of Montrose.

joint-witnesses to a baptism in the parochial register of Dunbarny, dated 28th December 1662; and in the preceding year (19th May 1661) William Moncrieff of Kintillo is one of the witnesses to the baptism of William, son of William Moncrieff, *in* Kintillo. There is no evidence, however, of Alexander having either succeeded his father or left issue. On the other hand, in one of the Culfargie papers dated 1671, and consisting of an Instrument of Sasine in favour of David Grant of Lymptotts and others, allusion is made to William Moncrieff, "Nonnunquam [sometime or formerly] de Kintillo"; and the same document also mentions his younger brother, John Moncrieff of Culfargie. He appears to have had two daughters, Isobell and Margaret, of whom the first married Thomas Oliphant of Rossie-ochell, as we learn from an entry in the Particular Register of Sasines for Perthshire, dated 24th April 1646, to the following effect: Sasine on Charter by Thomas Oliphant of Rossie-ochell in favour of Isobell Moncrieff his future spouse, daughter of William Moncrieff, portioner of Kintillo, in liferent, of the lands of Rossie-ochell—7th April 1646. The witnesses to the Charter, which is dated 1st February 1646, are John Moncrieff of Easter Moncrieff and Mr John Moncrieff (not designated). The other daughter, Margaret, married David Dewar of Lassodie, as appears from an entry in the Great Seal Register¹ relative to the confirmation of three different charters, of which the second was granted, 9th April 1657, by Sir John Moncrieff of that Ilk, knight-baronet, to William Moncrieff of Kintillo and the heirs male of his body; whom failing, to the heirs to be procreated between David Dewar of Lassodie and Margaret Moncrieff his spouse, daughter of the said William . . . of all and whole the town and lands of Kintillo.

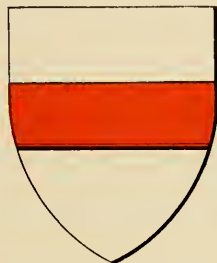
From an entry in the General Register of Sasines (vol. iii. f. 349) relative to the renunciation of certain lands, it appears that William Moncrieff of Kintillo was alive on the 31st of December 1666; and as we have already seen that he was described as "sometime" (or "formerly") of Kintillo in 1671, his death probably took place between these two years, when about the age of threescore and ten.

III.* The *second* surviving son of Matthew Moncrieff of Kintillo was

¹ Lib. 61, No. 47—29th July 1664.

John Moncrieff, born in the year 1608. From entries in the General Register of Sasines, to one of which we have already referred, he appears to have become proprietor of Culfargie, in the parish of Abernethy and county of Perth, about the year 1650, at which date he had reached the rank of Major (of Dragoons). Among the family papers is a discharge by James Marquis of Douglas to Major John Moncrieff of Culfargie for £189 Scots of feu-duty from Martinmas 1652 to Whitsunday 1669, dated at Edinburgh 12th July 1669.

John Moncrieff of Culfargie married Anne Melville of the family of Raith, probably daughter of John Melville of Raith by Margaret Scott of Balwearie, and sister of John, third Lord Melville,¹ who frequently appears as "spouse of John Moncrieff of Culfargie" in the family papers, as well as in an entry in the Particular Register of Sasines for Perthshire (vol. vii. fol. 174), dated 20th February 1678.



In the west gable of the existing farmhouse of Culfargie, which was erected nearly a hundred years ago, is an oblong tablet (now concealed by recent "harling") from the old mansion-house, bearing the letters I. M. and A. M. (John Moncrieff and Anne Melville), and the date 1658.

The following lines from "The Auld House" of Gask, by Lady Nairne, are quite appropriate to the departed mansion of Culfargie:—

" The mavis still doth sweetly sing,
 The bluebells sweetly blaw,
 The bonny Earn's clear winding still,
 But the auld house is awa'.
 The auld house, the auld house,
 Deserted though ye be,
 There ne'er can be a new house
 Will seem sae fair to me."

¹ One of Playfair's many errors is to make Anne Melville the wife of John Moncrieff's elder brother William. For an account of the Melvilles of Raith, see Nisbet's 'System of Heraldry,' vol. ii., App., p. 28, and Douglas's 'Peerage of Scotland,' ii. 113.

From a holograph disposition granted by his nephew Matthew Moncrieff, "fiar of Culfargie," dated 7th January of the same year,¹ it appears that, besides Culfargie, Major John Moncrieff possessed "Forges (or Farg's) Milne," and also "part of the lands of Carie," which he had purchased from John Oliphant of Carie about the year 1662. "Major John Moncrieff" appears in the list of fines (amounting to upwards of £1,017,000 Scots) imposed during the same year by Lord Middleton, High Commissioner of Scotland, on some seven or eight hundred noble-men, gentlemen, and burgesses,—chiefly of the western shires,—"for the relief of the King's good subjects who had suffered in the late troubles." According to Wodrow, "they were chargeable with nothing but being Presbyterians."²

In 1666 a legal process seems to have been raised by John Whytt, Procurator-Fiscal, Perth, against "Anna Melville, spouse of John Moncrieff of Colfargie," and others, for attending conventicles. There is, however, among the Culfargie papers, a relative extract decret of absolvitor from the conclusions of the summons, dated at Perth, 15th May 1682.

John Moncrieff of Culfargie died without any surviving issue in November 1693,³ when his nephew Matthew, "fiar of Culfargie," and eldest son of his youngest brother Alexander (to be afterwards referred to), succeeded to the estate.

The third surviving son of Matthew Moncrieff of Kintillo was Matthew Moncrieff, born in 1609, who married Jean, sister of John Moncrieff of Easter Moncrieff. This appears from a sasine of the said Jean, in an annual rent of 720 merks out of the lands of Barnhill, already referred to, on a charter by Matthew Moncrieff, younger of Kintillo, "her future husband," and in implement of their marriage-contract, of date 6th

¹ Culfargie Writs.

² In the same list, under Fifeshire, we find "John Moncrieff of Cressel," who was fined the same amount as Major John Moncrieff—viz., £1200 Scots.

³ The following entry relative to his burial occurs in the Parochial Register of Abernethy:

"Decr. 1st. 1693.—The corps of the deceased Laird of Colfargie had the use of the velvet mortcloath . . . 02 . . . 18 . . . 00." Shortly before his death he appears to have presented a communion-cup to the parish church: "Mr John Moncreif of Colfargie gifted this cup to the Kirk of Aberneathie—1693."

January 1642.¹ The issue of this marriage was one son, Matthew, and three daughters, Agnes, Anna, and Margaret, of whom the last married Robert Arnot, merchant in Queensferry,² and died in May 1720.³

By contract of wadset, executed in 1646, Sir John Moncrieff of that Ilk, knight baronet, disposes, under reversion, the lands of Easter Rhynd to Matthew Moncrieff, younger, "son lawful to Matthew Moncrieff of Kintillo," in respect of the payment of 12,000 merks.⁴ Matthew Moncrieff appears to have died within ten years after this transaction, at a comparatively early age, as a disposition, dated 30th January and 6th February 1656, was granted to his son Matthew by the aforesaid Sir John Moncrieff of that Ilk of the lands of Easter Rhynd, in which the grantee is described as "Matthew Moncrieff, eldest lawful son and apparent heir of *umq*." Matthew Moncrieff, lawfull son of *umq*." Matthew Moncrieff, portioner of Kintillo."⁵ The disposition was duly followed by a charter, dated 1st September 1656; and eight years later (24th March 1664) another charter of the same lands appears to have been granted by Sir John Moncrieff "in favour of and for new infestment to the said Matthew," under burden of a provision in favour of his sister Agnes.⁶ Matthew Moncrieff, second of Easter Rhynd, does not appear to have reached his majority in 1661, as his mother is described as his "tutrix" in a registered contract in the possession of the Rev. William Scott-Moncrieff of Fossaway, relative to the boundaries of the lands of Easter Rhynd and Carpow, dated 1st and 11th of March 1661. The contracting parties are, on the one part, "Willieme Olyphant of Carpow," and, on the other part, "Jean Moncrieff, relict of the deceased Matthew Moncrieff of Eister Rynd, tutrix to Matthew Moncrieff, now of Eister Rynd, their sone, taking the

¹ Particular Register of Sasines for Perthshire, vol. x., 10th February 1642.

² Among the Culfargie Papers is a disposition and assignation, dated 19th May 1674, by Anna Moncrieff, "lawful sister to Matthew Moncrieff of Easter Rhynd," of an annual rent of £100 out of the lands of Easter Rhynd to "Robert Arnot, merchant in Queensferry, her brother-in-law, and Margaret Moncrieff his spouse."

³ Testament Dative and Inventory of the goods

and gear of umquhill Margaret Moncrieff, relict of Robert Arnot of Easter Rind, and of Thomas Arnot, her son, confirmed at St Andrews, 5th February 1731.—Culfargie Writs.

⁴ Culfargie Writs.—The words, "In Deo sit nostra fides" are thrice repeated under the endorsement title.

⁵ Culfargie Writs.

⁶ Register of the Great Seal, lib. 61, No. 32.

burden on her for him, with consent of Johne Moncrieff of Eister Moncrieff, Williame Moncrieff of Kintillo, Mr Andro Moncrieff of Boghall, and Mr Johne Moncrieff of Coalfargie, *uncles* to the said Matthew Moncrieff"—William of Kintillo and John of Culfargie being his paternal, and John of Easter Moncrieff and Andrew of Boghall his maternal uncles.

There is no evidence of Matthew Moncrieff ever having married, and accordingly we find that in the year 1673, when he was probably upwards of forty years of age, he conveyed his estate to his brother-in-law, Robert Arnot, and Margaret Moncrieff his wife.¹ In consequence of various heritable bonds previously granted by Matthew to his mother and his sister Anna, the transaction appears to have been somewhat complicated. As will afterwards appear, the estate of Easter Rhynd again returned to the Moncrieffs in 1703, in the person of David Moncrieff, Clerk to the Privy Council, third son of Alexander Moncrieff, minister of Scoonie.

The male descendants of all his elder brothers having failed, the representation of the family of Kintillo was carried on through—

III. ALEXANDER MONCRIEFF, *youngest* son of Matthew Moncrieff of Kintillo, born in 1613, who, during a long and active life, took a prominent part in the ecclesiastical history of the seventeenth century. He was laureated at the University of Edinburgh, at the age of twenty-two, in 1635, and was a preacher and on the leet for Kirkcaldy about six years afterwards. On the 14th of June 1643 he was presented by Charles I. to the parish of Scoonie, and admitted on the 26th of September following. He was a member of the Commission of Assembly in 1647; subscribed the Solemn League and Covenant, 31st December 1648; and was one of the Commissioners appointed to visit the University of St Andrews in January 1649.² After that date, up to the year 1662, when he was deprived of his benefice, we find a number of curious notices regarding him in Lamont's 'Chronicle of Fife,' of which the following is a summary :—

1649. April 3.—Mr Alexander Moncrieff appointed, along with Mr James Sharp, minister of Crail (afterwards Archbishop of St Andrews), and three others,

¹ Inventory of Writs (No. 29) in the possession of the Rev. William Scott-Moncrieff of Fossaway.

² Scott's 'Fasti Ecclesiæ Scoticanæ,' ii. 558.

to attend the disputes for a Regent's place in St Leonard's College, which he accordingly did a few days afterwards, when the subjects were "Syllogismus," "Liberum Arbitrium," and "De Anima."

May 25.—A public thanksgiving for the defeat of the northern forces by David Leslie's followers and other causes, when Mr James Magill, minister of Largo, and Mr Alexander Moncrieff of Scoonie "had both their texts in one and the same verse—viz., Deut. xxxiii. 29."

1650. April 21.—Communion at Scoonie—the officiating ministers being Mr Kenneth Loggie of Kirkcaldy, Mr Samuel Rutherford of St Andrews,¹ and Mr Alexander Moncrieff. "At this tyme both Durie² and his lady was debarred from the tabel, because of their malignancie."

November.—Meeting of Church and State at St Johnston, at which both declared against the Remonstrance of the men of the West Country, as being divisive and contrary to the Covenant. Upon which several ministers, including Rutherford and Moncrieff, protested against the declaration of the Church.

1651. April 2.—These two again protested against a letter from the Provincial Assembly of Fife to the Commission of Assembly, praising them for what they had done anent public affairs.

July 13.—Scoonie Communion—Rutherford and Moncrieff officiating, and the attendance so large that two stranger clergymen, at two different diets, were obliged to "sitt within the pulpit while the minister had his sermon."

July.—In the General Assembly convened at St Andrews—Lord Balcarres,

¹ Formerly of Anwoth in Galloway, and author of the celebrated 'Letters,' which have long formed one of the most cherished books of the Scottish peasantry, besides 'Lex Rex' and other well-known works. He held the office of professor of divinity in the New College of St Andrews, and in 1643 was chosen one of the Commissioners from the Church of Scotland to the Assembly of Divines at Westminster. He was thirteen years older than his friend the minister of Scoonie, having been born about the year 1600. While Wodrow says that he was sprung of mean but honest parents in Teviotdale, according to the editor of the first edition of his Letters he was, like Moncrieff, "a gentleman by extraction." After a useful and somewhat checkered career, he died on the 19th of March 1661, at the exact hour which he himself had foretold.

² Sir Alexander Gibson, Bart., admitted as a Senator of the College of Justice in 1646, under the title of Lord Durie, son of Sir Alexander

Gibson, Bart., President of the Court of Session (who was kidnapped on the sands of Leith by Will Armstrong), by Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Craig of Riccarton, Lord Advocate of Scotland. Along with the Earl of Cassilis and others, he took a prominent part against the imposition of the Service Book by Charles I. in 1638, but three years afterwards he was nominated Clerk-Register by the King. In consequence of his joining the "Engagement," he was deprived of his offices by Cromwell in 1649. He was twice married—first, to Marjory Murray, daughter of Andrew, Lord Balvaird; and secondly, to Cecilia, daughter of Thomas Fotheringham of Powrie. He died about the year 1662.

According to the Rev. Walter Wood ('East Neuk of Fife,' 2d edition, p. 35), Sir Alexander Gibson's father was only a Principal Clerk of Session at the time of his abduction, and the real kidnapper was George Meldrum, younger of Dumbreck. Playfair erroneously narrates the incident as relative to the President's son.

Commissioner—Rutherford, Moncrieff, and some twenty other ministers, protested against the lawfulness of the Assembly, alleging that it was “corrupt, ill-constitute, and not frie.”

1652. July.—Some of Major Dean's regiment of foot quartered on the ministers of Scoonie and Largo—“this being the first time that ministers quartered either foot or horse in this shyre.”

1653. August 11 (Thursday).—“A Fast keiped at Sconie Kirke”—two sermons being preached in the forenoon by Rutherford and Moncrieff. “The one came doune from the pulpit and the other went up, in the tyme that the psalme after the first sermon was singing, so that ther was no intermission of the exercise, nether were the peopell dismissed till both sermons were ended.”

1654. January 14, 15 (Saturday and Sunday).—Services by Rutherford and Moncrieff for the continuance of the Gospel in the land, and for its spread in some parts of the Highlands.

October 31.—Provincial Assembly sat at Kirkcaldy, and protested against a Commission from the Protector anent planting ministers and masters of universities in Scotland, from which Moncrieff and Mr George Nairne “did somewhat disasent.” Mr Robert Hunter, recently chaplain to Lord Durie, affirmed that Moncrieff denounced from the pulpit “ane absolute judgement of destruction and ruine against the House of Durie, without any condition of repentance.”

December 10.—Fast appointed by the Provincial of Fife held at Scoonie and Largo—the causes being, *inter alia*, contempt of the Gospel and an ordinance by Cromwell, which, “att one dash,” did overthrow the discipline and government of the Church of Scotland. The next Sabbath (December 17) “was also keiped fastwayes” by Mr Alexander Moncrieff at Scoonie. Text, both days, Lev. xxvi. 23, 24.

1655. July 22.—Fast at Scoonie and Largo, Moncrieff preaching from Isa. v. 1-3. On this occasion he chose three elders, respecting which there was “a great contest in words betwixt the Lord Durie and Mr Alex. Moncreife. All the time of this jangling [the Diarist continues], which was before the chosing of the three elders, Mr Alex. was in the pulpitt, and Durie in his owne seat. James Turpie, Durie's coall-griefe, was first called upon that day to be ane elder by the minister, bot he altogether refused, nothwithstanding that Mr Alex. told him publicklie from the pulpitt that he was content to accept the night before; the minister said to him that this could be nothing else bot a suggestion of Satan. Durie, publicklie, in the feace of the congregation, discharged any that he had power ouer, or in his ground, to accept to be ane elder (bot to hear the Word reuerentlie, and no more). Among other expressions that Mr Alex. spake to Durie, one was, that he called him ane opposer and persecuter of the Church of Scotland. (Obs. that this was so sharpe and bitter a contest betuixt Durie and the minister, that the hearers affirmed that the like had neuer beine in that place.) Moreouer, Durie desyred the minister to hold his peace, and the minister desyred Durie

to hold his peace. Durie also told that ther wolde be a visitation of that church shortlie, and they wold discerne which of them were in the wronge. Also, Mr Alex. spake to the Laird of Fengas Weyms, a paritioner ther; and this gentelman desyred Mr Alex. to goe on and chose the elders, withall telling him that the charge of that peopell lay on him, and that he behoued, att the last day of judgement, to be countabell for them. After that, Mr Alex. did proceed to the chosing of the elders, wha were placed att a tabell before the pulpitt."

August 8.—The Presbytery of Kirkcaldy met at Scoonie, when the Moderator demanded of Mr Alexander Moncrieff the names of his elders, "which he delivered in writte"; and after they were called by their names, the minister stated that the custom in visitations was "to try if the elders had ought to object or say against ther minister, and how they were satisfied with him and his doctrine, and, on the contrar, to see what the minister had to say against his elders, and how he was satisfied with them."

1657. September 29.—The Provincial Assembly of Fife sat at Cupar, when Doctors Colville and Balfour, "with some ministers," were appointed to confer with the parties respecting "Durie's and Mr Alex. Moncriff's busines," which was taken up at a subsequent sitting of the same Assembly at Kirkcaldy. The Assembly "decried that sex of the ten elders that was chosen when the debate beganne sould sit on the session ther att Sconie till the nixt Prouinciall; bot Mr Alex. protested against this determination of the Assembly (with w^h the Assembly was not weill satisfied), so that businese lay ouer as before." It was again under consideration on the 5th of October following, when the Assembly "appointed some to speake with Mr Alex. to sie if they could settell the busines."

1660. August 23.—The Committee of Estates sat in Edinburgh—being the first Committee appointed by his Majesty "since his returne from his banishment." The Committee having ineffectually desired the "protesting ministers" to dissolve their meeting, resolved to commit them to the Castle of Edinburgh—among the rest, Mr James Guthrie, minister of Stirling, Mr Robert Traill, Mr Alexander Moncrieff, and his brother-in-law, Mr John Murray, minister of Methven. Guthrie was publicly hanged at the Cross of Edinburgh ten months afterwards.

1662. August 14.—By order of Archbishop Sharp, Mr John Ramsay, formerly of Careston in Angus, was admitted minister of Scoonie in succession to Moncrieff, "who att that tyme was under processe before the Parliament at Edinburgh." Durie was required "to be assistant to him, which he undertooke to doe," but the other heritors (Athernie and Fengas) were not present.

In his 'History of the Sufferings of the Church of Scotland,'¹ Wodrow gives some interesting particulars of Moncrieff's later career, and we con-

¹ Book I. chap. ii. sect. v.

sider it unnecessary to make any apology for the introduction of the entire passage. After alluding to Guthrie, Simpson, and M'Vaird, he proceeds as follows :—

“ The reverend Mr Alexander Moncrief, minister of the gospel at Scoonie in Fife, was another of those ministers, and was indeed very hardly dealt with. I shall give a distinct account of this singularly pious and useful minister, from some hints I have from very good hands, and the parliament records: his papers were burnt some time before his death, and his contemporaries much gone; and it is to be regretted so lame an account can be given of this man of God. I shall put all I have to say of this good man in this place; and indeed much of it concerns this period [1661].

During the usurpation, Mr Alexander Moncrief was persecuted by the English for his loyalty to the king, and his constant praying for him. His house was many times searched and rifled by the English, and he obliged to hide. Upon the Sabbath he had spies set upon him, and was closely watched where he went after preaching. Frequently he was hotly pursued; and one time a party of horse came after him when fleeing, and by a special providence, though attacked once and again by them, by his own fortitude and resolution he got clear of them, and escaped at that time. Thereafter in a neighbouring congregation he was seized, and imprisoned some time, merely for praying for the king.

Being shortly after liberate, he was pitched upon, as a person of great courage and boldness, to present the protestation and petition against the toleration, and other encroachments upon the church and state, October, 1658, signed by himself and several other ministers of Fife, to general Monk. This he did with the greatest firmness, and it exposed him further to the extremities of that time. All the return he had to those sufferings for his loyalty was, as we heard, August 23d last, to be seized when petitioning according to law. For any thing I can find, he continued under confinement till July 12th this year; and every body, and he himself expected he should never have been liberate till he came to a scaffold.

Much about the time with Mr James Guthrie, he had his indictment and charge sent him, which I have not seen, but find it run upon his having a share in the ‘ Remonstrance,’ and in forming the ‘ Causes of God’s Wrath;’ and he refused to retract any thing in them. He was several times brought before the parliament, and his prosecution for his life was so hot, that the earl of Athole and others in parliament, particularly interested and concerned in Mr Moncrief and his wife, being importuned by her to appear for him in parliament, dealt with her to endeavour to prevail with him to recede from some of his principles, otherwise, they told her, it was impossible to save his life. This excellent woman answered, ‘ That they all knew she was happy in a good husband, that she had great affection to him, and many children; yet she knew him to be so steadfast to his principles where his con-

science was concerned, that nobody needed deal with him upon that head; for her part, before she would contribute anything that would break his peace with his Master, she would rather choose to receive his head at the Cross.' About this time likewise, two ladies of the first quality were pleased to concern themselves so far in Mr Moncrief, as to provide a handsome compliment in plate (which was not unusual at this time), and send it to the advocate's lady. Afterwards they went and visited her, and addressed her in his behalf, but were told it was impossible to save his life; and the compliment was returned. Yet providence so overruled this matter, that Mr Moncrief being much respected, and his hardships almost universally regretted upon account of his eminent piety, integrity, and uprightness, severals of all ranks and different persuasions, and unknown to him, did zealously, and without any application, interpose for him; so that the spirits of some of his hottest and most violent persecutors, who had resolved upon his death, began to soften and become more friendly. His process lingered till, after a tedious imprisonment, he fell sick, and obtained the favour of confinement to a chamber in Edinburgh. By the records of parliament, I find they passed the following sentence upon him, July 12th: 'The king's majesty and estates of parliament, having considered the report of the lords of articles anent the process against Mr Alexander Moncrief, minister of Scoonie, and his own carriage before them, in owning his accession to the "Remonstrance" and "Causes of God's Wrath," do accordingly declare the said Mr Alexander to be for ever incapable of exercising any public trust, civil or ecclesiastic, and also discharge him of all public trust, civil or ecclesiastic, within this kingdom, until, in the next session of parliament, further order be taken concerning him, and discharge him in the meantime to go to the said parish.'

And to give the reader all I have of this worthy person together. After this sentence, when living peaceably some eight or nine miles from his parish, people began to resort to him, and hear him preach in his own family; whereupon, under a most severe storm in the middle of winter, by virtue of an act we shall afterwards meet with, he was charged to remove from his house, and required to live twenty miles from his charge, and seven or eight miles from a bishop's seat or royal burgh, and was with his family forced from his house, and obliged to wander in that great storm. And when he had transported his furniture to a place at a competent distance, even there he got a second charge to remove to a further distance, till he was obliged to transport his family to a remote place in the Highlands, where his good God, who had all along countenanced and supported him wonderfully in his troubles, honoured him to be instrumental in the conversion of many.

Thereafter, the persecution somewhat abating, he brought his family to Perth for the education of his children, where he continued preaching the gospel; a few at first, but afterwards a great many attended his ministry. Being informed against, we may easily guess by whom, a party of the horse guards were sent to apprehend him, but he escaped, though his house was narrowly and rudely searched: this forced him from his family, and he was obliged to lurk a good while. At length

he came in with his family to Edinburgh, where he preached the gospel many years in private, under a series of trouble and persecution. He was intercommuned, as we shall hear, and his house and many other places in and about the city narrowly searched for him, yet he was always marvellously hid. Many instances might be given when he went to the country. Many times parties of the guards were sent in quest of him, and sometimes he would meet them in his return, and pass through them unknown. When he was lodged in a remote part of the suburbs of Edinburgh, a captain with a party of the regular troops searched every house and chamber of the close, save the house where he lodged, into which they never entered, though the door was open. At another time when he was lurking in a private family without the wall of Edinburgh, a party was sent to apprehend him; providentially he had gone out to walk near by the house where he was: the party observing him, and by his gravity suspecting him a minister, one of them said, 'That may be the man we are seeking:' 'Nay,' said another, 'he would not be walking there;' thus they entered into the house and searched it narrowly for him. Again, when advertised that the soldiers were coming to search for him in his own house, he lingered till another minister came in to him, and said, 'Sir, you must surely have a protection from heaven, that you are so secure here, when the town is in a disorder, and a general search to be made;' and immediately he went off. In a little Mr Moncrief went out, and he was not well down stairs, when the guard came up and searched his house. He took a little turn in the street, and came back to his house again, just as the guards went off.

Those and many other preservations he could not but remark. But the persecution still continuing, and turning hotter, he was obliged to dismiss, and scatter his family for some time. He was solicited, when in those circumstances, to leave the kingdom, and had an ample call to Londonderry in Ireland; yet he always declined to leave his native country, and in his pleasant way used to say, 'He would suffer where he had sinned, and essay to keep possession of his Master's house, till he should come again.' He had a sore sickness about the beginning of June, 1680. I have in mine eye a large collection of heavenly expressions he then had, too long to be here inserted.

Mr Moncrief's memory is yet savoury to many; and there are several alive who can bear witness that God was with him and in him of a truth. He left many seals of his ministry in Fife, and was a most faithful and painful minister. His sufferings are a little hinted at in 'The Fulfilling of the Scriptures,' p. 343. But such was his self-denial, that though he be not named nor his persecutors, as long as he lived he would not suffer that book to be in his family. He lived till harvest, 1688, and so may be said indeed to 'have kept possession of his Master's house till he came back;' as he frequently used to express his own hopes under this dark period of sufferings. He was mighty in prayer, and a singular prevailer; and I have some remarkable and strange returns of his prayers well vouched before me, not so needful to be insert here. I wish his worthy son, at present a reverend and useful

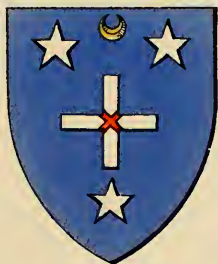
minister in this church, could be prevailed with to give us the life of this holy person."

In a later chapter¹ Wodrow refers to a petition presented by Moncrieff to the Privy Council, when residing at Reidie in December 1664, for permission to go to Edinburgh, where his "personal presence" was required in connection with a legal process. The Council granted him licence accordingly for a period of six days, "upon bond to live peaceably and loyally during that time."

Moncrieff was considered by the Duke of Hamilton to be one of the greatest opponents to the Indulgence granted by the Privy Council in 1669. Decreets were passed against him and others, in 1672² and 1674, for holding conventicles; and the magistrates of Perth were appointed to seize him as a "noted keeper of conventicles" in and about that city. Letters of intercommuning were also issued against him, along with Alexander Durham of Largo, in the following year, when he fled to the Highlands; and he was cited, with others, to appear before the Council on the 11th of August 1677.

In the late Lord Crawford's 'Lives of the Lindsays'³ is a long and curious letter, dated 8th September 1685, from William, eighteenth Earl of Crawford, to two Presbyterian ministers—of whom one was the Rev. Alexander Moncrieff of Scoonie—in which he consults them on the question of emigration, giving reasons for and against his leaving the country, but assuring them of his determination to abide by their decision.

Alexander Moncrieff married Anna, daughter of Robert Murray of Woodend,⁴



¹ Book I. chap. v. sec. iv.

² The Decreet of 1672 related to conventicles in Fife, and besides the minister of Scoonie (then "an indweller in Perth"), it embraces the names of Hay of Lees (Leys?), Rigg of Athernie, John Drummond of Megginch, younger, David Coventry in Arlary, and George Hay of Bal-

housie, afterwards Earl of Kinnoull, some of whom were heavily fined.

³ Vol. ii. p. 427. See also p. 155 of the same volume for another interesting reference to Alexander Moncrieff.

⁴ "Descended from a younger son of the family of Dollerie, a branch of that of Tullibardine"—

minister of Methven, (born in 1620), by whom he had four sons and three daughters. As indicated in the passage quoted from Wodrow's History, he died on the 6th of October of the memorable year 1688 ("in lucem cœlestem migravit"), at the age of seventy-five, and was interred, two days afterwards, in the churchyard of Greyfriars, Edinburgh, in the compartment immediately adjoining Principal Robertson's place of burial. The following is the relative entry in the Council Record :—

"Mr Allexr. Muncrif Minestr of wal tom . . . 3."

His devoted wife survived him till the 25th of October 1704, when she had nearly fulfilled the lengthened pilgrimage of fourscore and four years. Among the Culfargie papers is a discharge by James Cathness, dated "Tolcrosse, 26th June 1691," to Mrs Anna Murray, relict of Mr Alexander Moncrieff, minister of Scoonie, for £30 Scots, being the half-year's rent, previous to Whitsunday 1691, of her house in High School Wynd, Edinburgh. A monument was erected to the memory of the aged couple, in the Greyfriars' churchyard, by six of their seven children, the following inscription on which—now almost entirely effaced—is preserved in Monteith's 'Theater of Mortality,' and reprinted in Brown's 'Greyfriars' Epitaphs,' published in 1867.¹

"Eheu! siste viator, luge & mirare. Dei amicus, Christi athleta fidelis, grande ecclesiæ ornamentum, hic jacet Dominus ALEXANDER MONCRIFIUS, sanguine nobilis, apud Scounienses per annos XVIII. pastor, præco insignis, pollens Scripturis, spiritu prophetico non raro afflatus; fide, spe, charitate plenus; Boanerges alter, alter Barnabas, integer vitæ, scelerisq. purus; fidei reformatæ tenax, disciplinæ purioris assertor strenuus; prælatorum ira, malignantium furore multa perpressus, grege depulsus, carcere inclusus: denuo liberatus ministerium, sibi a Domino commissum, pessimis temporibus exercuit, implevit, decoravit; suaviq. triumpho, Christo rebelles trahebat animas. Exoriente tandem libertatis luce, in lucem cœlestem migravit anno Dom. MDCLXXXVIII. Octob. die VI., ætatis LXXV. Necnon conjux charissima ANNA MORAVIA; quæ pietate infucata, patientia infracta, prudentia singulari, charitate vere Christiana, Deum colendo, Christi crucem ferendo, rem familiarem ad-

Scott's 'Fasti Eccl. Scot.' Part iv. p. 534. See also Morris's 'Provosts of Methven,' p. 7, for some notices of the Murrays of Woodend.

¹ The inscription was recut, in 1871, on a new slab now affixed to the west wall of the Grey-

friars' churchyard, and immediately adjoining the original stone, under the direction of Colonel Moncrieff, the worthy minister's namesake and lineal descendant, and the present representative of the family of Culfargie.

ministrando, fidelibus afflictis succurrendo, vitæ stadium percurrens, Deo animam reddidit anno Dom. MDCCIV. Octobris die XXV., ætatis LXXXIV. Monumentum hoc, in perpetuæ observantiæ memoriam, utrisq. posuere generosi sex liberi, patri similima proles. Abi viator & luge.

Non moritur, vivit, vitam qui morte redemit ;
 Est mihi mors, vita ; ut mors mihi vita fuit.
 Non mitra aut miles, non sanguinolenta draconum
 Turba potest requiem contemnerare meam ;
 Hæc requies, hæc una sedes, hæc sola voluptas
 Esse, pati, Domino vivere, velle mori.
 In Domino vixi, vici morior, requiesco
 Ergo lucrum Christus commoda cuncta dedit :
 Ipse ego, deliciis divini raptus amoris,
 Gaudia summa cano, non peritura. Vale.
 M.P. MR.J.H.S.T.P. MR.J.A.V.D.M."

The children of Alexander Moncrieff and Anna Murray were as follows :—

1. Matthew, who succeeded his uncle John in the estate of Culfargie, and carried on the representation of the family of Kintillo.
2. John, born about 1649 (?), studied at St Salvator's College, St Andrews, and obtained the degree of M.A. Like his father the minister of Scoonie, he was denounced for keeping conventicles in 1682. In 1687 he was admitted by a committee of the Synod to the meeting-house, and two years later to the church of Prestonpans. He was a member of Assembly in 1690 and 1692, and was "transported" to the parish of Trinity College, Edinburgh, in the course of the latter year. In July 1699 he married Janet, daughter of John Mitchell of Balbardie, and died at Rungay in Fife, 25th November 1709—"a pious and laborious minister, lamented both by his brethren and people."¹
3. William studied at St Andrews, and graduated there (M.A.) in 1677. Some years afterwards he appears to have been in Holland, from which he returned in 1687; and in 1691 he was appointed minister of Largo. During the first seven years of his ministry he

¹ 'Fasti Ecclesiæ Scoticanæ,' i. 32.

“had very sensible success, but afterwards comparatively little.”¹
He is nevertheless described by Ralph Erskine as

“An Israelite indeed,
Who, without guile, the flock of Christ did feed;
Tender of weaklings, faithful unto all,
He spared the faults of neither great nor small.
Of sin and vice he was a bold reprov-er,
Of Zion’s welfare still a zealous lover;
Her peace was matter of his fervent prayer,
His public labour, and his private care.
This preacher showed himself what few can do,
A Barnabas and Boanerges too;
A son of thunder, with alarming noise;
A son of comfort, with a charming voice.”²

William Moncrieff married, 29th December 1708, Anne Lindsay, sister of the Laird of Edzell (who died in the Canongate, Edinburgh, in November 1769), and had three daughters—Anne, Barbara, and Margaret—of whom Barbara married James M’Pherson of Killie-huntlie. William Moncrieff died 14th September 1723.

4. David, born 16—, and appointed Clerk to the Privy Council 29th August 1689.

The following letter from Henry third Lord Cardross³ to David Moncrieff is in the possession of Mr Scott-Moncrieff of Fossaway:—

“EDR., 26 Novr. 1689.

“SIR,—I still finde by my brother how I am allways more and more obliged to you. I assure you I shall allways have a true sens of it, or I shall on all occasions be red- dy to testify. I have both by yester night’s fleeing packquett and this night’s post writen pretty full accounts of our present affairs here. I had enclosed them in letters to you, if the uncertainty of your being yet at London did not

¹ ‘Fasti Ecclesiæ Scoticanæ,’ ii. 446.

² His father, the minister of Scoonie, is similarly characterised in his epitaph in the Greyfriars’ churchyard.

³ Lord Cardross was very much mixed up with the political and religious troubles of his time; and after a checked career in North America, he found his way to Holland, from which he

accompanied the Prince of Orange to England in 1688, raised a regiment of dragoons, and proved a useful commander, under Mackay, in subduing the opposition to the new Government. He died at Edinburgh in 1693, at the early age of forty-three, when he was succeeded by his son David, fourth Lord Cardross, who became ninth Earl of Buchan in 1698.

hinder, or it hath made me forebear wreating so, and so frequently as otherways I wold have done, who am, sir, your real friend and servant, CARDROSS.

"For Mr DAVID MONCRIEFF, London."

David Moncrieff's name occurs in unpleasant connection with that action of unparalleled barbarity which disgraced the Scottish advisers of William of Orange a few years later—to wit, the Massacre of Glencoe (13th February 1692). Sir Colin Campbell of Ardkinglass, Sheriff-Depute of Argyllshire, administered the oath of allegiance to Macdonald of Glencoe on the 6th of January 1692—which was beyond the time prescribed by the Government proclamation—and sent a relative certificate to the sheriff-clerk of the county, who happened to be in Edinburgh, with the view of ascertaining whether the Privy Council would receive it. The sheriff-clerk consulted Lord Aberuchill, and, through him, Lord Stair and other Privy Councillors, and found that, in their opinion, the certificate could not be received without a warrant from the King. Accordingly, "with the knowledge of Lord Aberuchill, Mr John Campbell, Writer to the Signet, and Mr David Moncrieff, Clerk to the Council, he did, by himself or his servant, score or delete the certificate, and gave it in, so scored and obliterate, to the said Mr David Moncrieff." The matter, however, was never brought formally before the Council Board, as Ardkinglass intended—which the Commissioners of Inquiry considered highly culpable—and the unfortunate Laird of Glencoe was one of the first victims in the brutal slaughter.¹

In a letter dated "Tippermallow, 30th January 1694," David Moncrieff is addressed as his "loveing cusin" by John Moncrieff, afterwards Sir John Moncrieff, Baronet,² who therein requests his advice and assistance with reference to "getting preaching in the kirk of Methven." Four years later (15th February 1698), the Earl of Tullibardine³ writes from Kensington to "Mr David Moncrieff, Clerk to the Secrit Counsell at Edinburgh," explaining the reason why his lordship's father (the Marquis of Atholl) was desirous of keeping certain prisoners at Dunkeld.

¹ Report of the Commission relative to the Massacre of Glencoe, 20th June 1693.

² They were *third* cousins, their common an-

cestor being William Moncrieff of that ilk, who married Margaret Murray of Balvaird.

³ Created Duke of Atholl in 1703.

In the year 1703, David Moncrieff acquired the lands of Easter Rhynd from Robert Arnot and Margaret Moncrieff his spouse; the price being £14,000 Scots, for which the purchaser granted a bond, dated at Easter Rhynd the 22d of May 1703.¹ About six months later, Arnot conveyed to David Moncrieff "his seat in the kirk of Rynd, and also the boat belonging to him," by formal disposition and assignation, in which Moncrieff is described as "*late Clerk to the Privy Council.*"² In October 1707, Jean Lady Ruthven frees David Moncrieff of Rhynd and his heirs from all trouble connected with the sum of £604 received by him from the African Trading Company, in respect of the payment of a corresponding amount to her ladyship;³ and in 1723 we find the ex-clerk of the Privy Council making a contract and agreement with John Gilmour, mason in Strathmiglo, relative to a sepulchral monument for his burying-place at the south-east corner of the church of Rhynd.⁴ Between the years 1690 and 1711, he appears to have been admitted as a burgess of the seven following towns: Dunbar, Lanark, Glasgow, Dumbarton, Kinghorn, Perth, and Cupar.⁵ David Moncrieff of Easter Rhynd married, in 1703, Ann, eldest daughter of John Dundas of Duddingston, by whom he had a son, Matthew, who died unmarried in 17—, and a daughter, Magdalene, who married, in 1730, John Scott of Coats, M.D. (see page 126). Among the Culfargie papers is a nomination, by David Moncrieff of Easter Rhynd, of tutors and curators to his only son Matthew, dated 7th April 1731—the tutors being George Dundas of Duddingston; John Dundas, Writer to the Signet; George Gillespie, minister of Strathmiglo; Alexander Moncrieff of Culfargie, minister of Abernethy; John Scott of Coats, doctor of medicine; and Alexander Swinton of Strathore—the majority to be a quorum, of whom the minister of Abernethy to be always one.

David Moncrieff died in 173—, when his daughter Magdalene succeeded to the estate of Easter Rhynd.

The three daughters of the minister of Scoonie were—

1. Anna, who, in 1681, married Hugh Cuningham, Lord Provost of Edinburgh in 1703, afterwards Sir Hugh Cuningham of

¹ Culfargie Writs.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

Bonnington, the originator of the Merchant Maidens' Hospital.¹

2. Margaret, married, in 1691, to Alexander Swinton of Strathore.²
3. Elizabeth, married to the Rev. Andrew Wardroper, M.A., minister of Kirkcaldy (second charge), and afterwards of Ballingry (who died in 1717, *æt.* sixty-eight), by whom she had a daughter Margaret.

For seven years during his incumbency at Ballingry there was neither a baptism, marriage, nor burial in the parish.³ Among the Culfargie papers is a bond for 100 merks yearly, granted in 1726 to Mrs Wardroper by her brother David Moncrieff of Easter Rhynd, in lieu of another of the same tenor, which was "brunt" in her dwelling-house at the head of Libertoun's Wynd, Edinburgh, in a fire which occurred on the 17th or 18th of December 1725.

The eldest son of the minister of Scoonie—

IV. MATTHEW MONCRIEFF, born 16—, carried on the representation of the family of Kintillo. He is described in the family papers as "Fiar of Culfargie," to which estate he succeeded on the death of his uncle John in 1693. He married, first, about 1677, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John Thomas, merchant in Edinburgh,⁴ by his wife Margaret Murray, and appears to have had by her a daughter named Anna.⁵ From various dispositions, assignations, and inventories of writs among the Culfargie papers, dated between 1672 and 1699, it would appear that Elizabeth Thomas had considerable property in Edinburgh, in the shape of "lands and



¹ The Latin inscription on his monument in Greyfriars' churchyard states that he was descended from the ancient and honourable family of Cuninghamehead, and that he was distinguished for his piety, integrity, and public spirit.

² "Contract Matrimonial, embracing Precept of Sasine."—Culfargie Writs.

³ 'Fasti Ecclesiæ Scotticæ,' ii. 519.

⁴ John Thomas was admitted as a burgess of Edinburgh in the year 1614.

⁵ "Disposition and Assignation by Margaret Somerville, nearest of kin to the deceased Elizabeth Thomas, dated 6th March 1706."—Culfargie Writs.

tenements." She died before 1692, but her testament-dative was only confirmed by the Commissaries of Edinburgh in 1706.¹

In a judicial ratification by Elspeth Grant, dated 19th February 1681, of a letter of renunciation and discharge in favour of John Moncrieff of Culfargie and Matthew Moncrieff, fiar of the same, of the sum of 600 merks (being the half of a debt embraced in a bond granted by William Moncrieff of Kintillo to David Grant of Lypmots, father of Elspeth aforesaid), John and Matthew are described as the "representatives" of the deceased William of Kintillo, thus indicating the failure of the male descendants of Matthew Moncrieff of Easter Rhynd.² On the 6th of November 1682, John Whytt, Procurator-Fiscal at Perth, grants a discharge for 300 merks to Matthew Moncrieff, fiar of Culfargie, and his lady (Elizabeth Thomas), in full satisfaction of a fine of £50 sterling imposed upon them for attending conventicles. Matthew Moncrieff commanded a regiment, under the Prince of Orange, at the battle of the Boyne (1st July 1690), where he was severely wounded. A few years after succeeding to the estate of Culfargie, he appears to have



been engaged in a complicated legal process against George Balvaird of Ballomiln and other burgesses of Abernethy, relative to the restricted multures of Forg's Milne, to which he refers in a letter to his brother David, dated 14th November 1699.³ He married, secondly, in 1692, Margaret, eldest daughter of John Mitchell of Balbardie,⁴ by whom he had three sons and two daughters—

1. Alexander, his heir.

2. John, born in 1699,⁵ indentured in 1716, for an apprenticeship of

¹ Culfargie Writs.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Contract Matrimonial — Culfargie Writs. Among the witnesses to the contract are John Moncrieff of Mornepea, Writer to the Signet;

David Moncrieff, Clerk to the Privy Council; and Hugh Cuninghame, Merchant in Edinburgh.

⁵ This appears from a Discharge by John to his brother Alexander for 5500 merks Scots, dated 14th September 1721, in which he describes himself as "of twenty years compleat."

three years, to Mr John Knox, "Chirurgion Apothecarie in Edinburgh." ¹

3. William, born in 1704.

1st daughter, Anna, born 1697.

2d, Elizabeth, born 1700, and married in 1725 to Mr James Crie, "Chirurgion Apothecarie" in Perth. In their contract of marriage, Mr Crie becomes bound to provide "Mrs Elizabeth Moncrieff," his spouse, with the sum of 13,000 merks Scots, in addition to her 7000 merks of tocher.²

On the 12th of December 1701, Matthew Moncrieff of Culfargie nominated as tutors and curators for his "wholl children" (Alexander, John, Anna, and Elizabeth), Margaret Mitchell his spouse, and his brothers-german, William Moncrieff, minister of Largo, and David Moncrieff, Clerk to His Majesty's Privy Council.³ Four years later (6th September 1705) he granted a disposition and assignation to Margaret Mitchell, his wife, of a liferent annuity of 200 merks, in addition to what was provided for her by their marriage-contract; and in March 1708 he executed a bond of provision to her of 100 merks yearly, in lieu of the house and yards of Culfargie, in the event of her being deprived thereof either by her son's majority or her own marriage. At the same time, he disposed his estate in terms which appear to indicate that his youngest son and eldest daughter (William and Anna) must have died before that date.⁴

From the following Latin elegy, it appears that he died towards the end of the year 1708:—

"ELEGIA, in Obitum literatissimi et summe pii, M^{ri} MATTHÆI MONCRÆFI,
a Culfarge, qui mortem obiit 15^{to} Cal. Dec^{ris} MDCCVIII.

Quòd nigra sit vestis Culfarges ; atria fletû
Pulsantur ; vultû pendula gutta fluit ;
Quòd populus mœret, quâ Fifa et Stratus Iernus ;
Non temere est : cecidit gloria, noster honos ;
Corruit et veri columnæ Culfargius Atlas ?

¹ The rigorous terms of the indenture are not a little curious.

² Culfargie Writs.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

Stamina nec secus venusta senecta viæ.
 A cunis cordi fuit illi turba piorum :
 Pectora Christiadam Christus amore ligat.
 Junior ut senior, similis sibi, mente colebat,
 Sincerus purâ religione Deum.
 Nam teneris pietas afflaverat antè medullis,
 Quàm fuerit solido corpore densa caro.
 Tum verbis aderat decor, ac effusa labellis
 Gratia, tum placidi fluminis instar habens.
 Eloquar? An sileam? Præstat tacuisse : quod ultra,
 Infra turriculas semper honoris erit.
 Cum consorte pari sine, res, thalamique jugalis
 Pignora erant, stabilem condere pulchra domum.
 Mens stupet, et torpet mihi lingua imagine rerum,
 Fontes quæ laudum aperuere tuos
 Singula cur referam? Dabat illi copia cœli,
 Singula quæ dices posse beâsse virum.
 Moncrefos frustra sperabis Scotia tales ;
 Tales non caperet mundulus ante duos.
 Deliciis alto bonitatis fonte refusus,
 Excelsis fruitur : molliter ossa cubent.
 Justorum orbi quâquaversum spiret odorem
 Culfargi tua hinc nominis aura. Vale.
 Hæc ut grati animi cesseram." N. R.¹

The following inscription appears on one of the communion-cups belonging to the parish church of Abernethy, and was probably engraved a few months after the death of the donor : "Gifted this cup for the kirk of Aberneathie by Mr Mathew Moncrieff of Colfargie, 1709."

Matthew Moncrieff was survived for upwards of thirty years by his widow, "Lady Culfargie," who appears to have been a woman of considerable energy and decision of character. Among the family papers are several detailed accounts of her disbursements. Shortly after her husband's death she appears to have paid the sum of £24 (Scots?) "to Her Majesty's Advocat and servants for a consultation;" and numerous accounts, dated between 1717 and 1732, indicate her transactions with tradesmen in Perth for scarlet cloth, gold lace, grey mantuas, bone and buckram, garden seeds, "tarts and shortbread," wine and brandy, medicines and groceries, and

¹ Culfargie Writs, No. 246.

various other items. From a discharge by Robert Robertson, merchant in Perth, dated 16th November 1719, it appears that her year's rent for "ane lodgine" in that city then amounted to £100 Scots; and some ten years later we find a receipt for £12 from the Treasurer of the "Fair City," being the cost of Lady Culfargie's church seat.¹ An elaborate document, dated at Culfargie, 30th May 1739, embraces a long series of bequests to her numerous relatives and friends.

From a discharged account, amounting to £35, 10s. Scots, for "articles furnished at the Lady Culfargie's funeral," she appears to have died before May 1740.

Matthew Moncrieff of Culfargie was succeeded, in 1708, by his eldest son—

V. ALEXANDER MONCRIEFF of Culfargie, born in July 1695,² who, like his grandfather, the minister of Scoonie, was very much mixed up with the ecclesiastical affairs of Scotland. After passing through the grammar-school at Perth he went to the University of St Andrews, where he studied for four consecutive sessions, and took the degree of Master of Arts in May 1714. After attending the Divinity Hall (of the same university) for at least two sessions, he went to the University of Leyden, which then possessed a high reputation as a school of Christian theology, in consequence of the celebrity of two of its professors—John à Marck and Wesselius. The young Scotchman assiduously devoted himself to study, and after a year's residence obtained the following testimonial relative to his character and qualifications :—

TESTIMONIAL by Dr JOHN À MARCK, Professor of Theology at Leyden, in favour of
MR ALEXANDER MONCRIEFF of Culfargie, 30th June 1717.

"L[ectori] S[alutem].

"Egregium juvenem, Alexandrum Moncrieff, Scoto-Perthensem, per annum quo in Academia nostra vixit dignissimum prorsus amplissimis suis testimoniis se præbuisse, et prolixissime se nobis et Academiæ universæ commendasse, per ingenii acumen, judicii dexteritatem, memoriæ vim, eloquii promptitudinem, dis-

¹ Culfargie Writs.

² This appears from his discharge to his tutor and curator, David Moncrieff of Rhynd, dated

5th September 1716, in which he is described as twenty-one years "compleat."—Culfargie Writs.

cendi ardorem, doctrinæ soliditatem, orthodoxiæ amorem, veræque pietatis zelum, editis horum omnium quotidianis speciminibus tum privatis tum publicis, lubens meritoque testor, Deumque venerer velit eundem ita spiritu suo porro ducere ut quantocys in præclarum fulcimentum et ornamentum ecclesiæ patriæ exsurgat, secundum nostram de eo expectationem! Lugd. Bat. a.d. 3 Jun. Anno Domini MDCCXVII.

JOHANNES À MARCK,

Theol. Dr & Prof. et V.D.M.

Dorso.—Testimonium Johan[nis] à Marck Theol. Dr. et Profess. etc. Lugd. Bat. De Alex^{ro}. Moncrieff de Culfargy, 1717.”

In a volume published at Amsterdam in 1721 by the same learned professor, he classes Moncrieff with his most distinguished pupils (“præstantissimos juvenes”). Among the few fragments that can now be recovered is a printed thesis by Moncrieff on “The future subjection of the Son to the Father,” extending to eight quarto pages, and written in very creditable Latin. It is dedicated to the Rev. William Moncrieff of Largo and David Moncrieff of Rhynd, his paternal uncles; John Mitchell of Balbardie, his mother’s brother; James Haddow and Henry Rymer, professors at St Andrews; Drs Marck and Wesselius of Leyden; and Thomas Hoog, pastor of the Scottish Church at Rotterdam.¹

As Moncrieff lost his father at the age of thirteen, his early education was chiefly superintended by his excellent and accomplished mother, assisted by his uncle and curator, David Moncrieff of Rhynd, to whom he tendered his grateful acknowledgments for much considerate kindness after attaining his majority. He appears to have been in no small degree influenced by the character and example of his distinguished grandfather, the minister of Scoonie. To use the words of his biographer—“There is little stretch of fancy in supposing that the mantle which fell from the one was, after the lapse of years, taken up by the other. Principle and emotion have their lines of descent as well as races of men and women, and to the warm affinities of flesh and blood they easily give the preference. Men die, but their thoughts survive them; and back to the progenitor we are

¹ For these and other particulars we are indebted to a memoir of Alexander Moncrieff, embraced in a little volume bearing the following title: ‘Memorials of Alexander Moncrieff,

M.A., and James Fisher, Fathers of the United Presbyterian Church,’ by David Young, D.D., Perth, and John Brown, D.D., Edinburgh, 1849.

often conducted for the embryo of that which is developed in his offspring."

"Spirits seem buried, and their epitaph
Is writ in Latin by severest pens,
Yet still they flit above the trodden grave
And find new bodies, animating them
In quaint and ghostly way with antique souls."

Not satisfied, however, with the grandson, Dr Young complacently claims the grandfather as a quasi-founder of the Secession Church. "Although the minister of Scoonie," he says, "was not of the Secession fathers, in the ordinary sense of the word, he was at one with these fathers in principle; the same spirit which sustained him was, forty years after his death, inspiration to them. . . . In his high moral bearing we see the seeds of the Scottish Secession; and in the position taken by his grandson with his honoured coadjutors, we see the Secession brought forth."

Alexander Moncrieff appears to have given way to serious impressions, and to have been habitually devoted to careful self-examination, at an early period of his life. Dr Young refers, at considerable length, to his continuous struggles against the supremacy of "a legal spirit"—the tendency to hang between the law and the gospel; and introduces a remarkable document, in the shape of a "Covenant with God," which the subject of his memoir engrossed with his own hand, at the age of seventeen, in the summer of 1712, and renewed, at subsequent dates, by formal records of adherence. After indicating his religious belief under a series of articulate statements, he thus concludes his holy bond:—

"Finally, I do disclaim all confidence in myself, as to the performance of this Covenant, knowing the inconstancy and unfaithfulness of my heart, how apt it is to turn aside like a deceitful bow; and therefore I lay the whole weight and stress of it upon Him, who works both to will and to do of His good pleasure; humbly beseeching Him, through Jesus Christ, graciously to accept of this offer, and mercifully to pardon my sinful weakness and infirmities, and favourably grant His necessary assistance that I may go on in the strength of the Lord, making mention of His righteousness, even of His only. In witness of the premisses, I do subscribe the same with my hand as follows:

ALEXANDER MONCRIEFF.

At Culfargie, 11th day of July 1712, afternoon, towards or near night."

As the period of his trials for licence drew near, we find him anxiously contemplating the heavy responsibilities of his future work.

"It is a very weighty matter," he writes, "to be a minister. I can, through divine aid, venture my own soul; since God hath made it, I shall serve Him with it; and I may be severely punished if I refuse, when called to be a minister, because of the difficulty or danger of the work. But shall I risk other people's souls? If God in mercy do not prevent it, I may be instrumental in damning instead of saving them. If I be a minister, I should have skill of my business, as every man of his trade. I should thoroughly know the disease of sin, and the remedy, Christ. If I know not my business, I should not meddle with it."

He appears to have returned from Holland in August 1717, and was licensed a few months afterwards, as a preacher of the Church of Scotland, by the Presbytery of Perth.¹ The incumbency of his native parish of Abernethy having become vacant in July 1719 by the death of the Rev. Alexander Dunning, he was "harmoniously" called to the benefice, by no fewer than sixty-one heritors and thirteen elders, on the 26th of April 1720, and ordained on the 14th of the following September.² His distant relative, the Rev. William Moncrieff of Methven, preached and presided on the occasion, and offended some nearer relations of the young minister who happened to be present, by warning his kinsman against the danger of his position in society proving an obstacle to his usefulness. Shortly before Culfargie's ordination, the so-called "Marrow Controversy" had begun to agitate the Church of Scotland, and although not one of the twelve "who are given to history under the honoured name of 'The Marrow Men,'" Dr Young asserts that Moncrieff adhered to their principles, and approved of the doctrine which the General Assembly had condemned. He appears to have been by no means satisfied with the decision of the Assembly, in 1726, in the case of Professor Simson (then charged with denying the divinity of our Saviour)—in terms of which he was merely suspended from preaching and lecturing to his students—and this result is said to have had considerable influence in preparing Moncrieff's mind for the position which he subsequently assumed among the leaders of the Secession.

¹ In the 'Fasti Ecclesiæ Scoticanæ,' the date of his licence is stated as 29th April 1719.

² The sum of £467, 3s. 4d. seems to have been

expended by the heritors, immediately afterwards, in the "reparation of the Manse and office houses."—Culfargie Writs.

During the six following years he took almost no part in the ecclesiastical controversies of the day,¹ and appears to have been much more usefully occupied in the assiduous discharge of his parochial duties. In alluding to this period, his biographer dwells on his habit of regarding all men—"rich and poor alike"—on the same level in things concerning God, as if such practice was not then, as now, the ordinary characteristic of the parochial clergy on both sides of the Tweed.

"How to relieve the wretched was his pride,
And even his failings leaned to virtue's side.
But in his duty, prompt at every call,
He watched and wept, he prayed and felt for all;
And, as a bird each fond endearment tries
To tempt its new-fledged offspring to the skies,
He tried each art, reproved each dull delay,
Allured to brighter worlds, and led the way."

About this period an incident occurred in the parish of Abernethy which may be here referred to as a sample of Moncrieff's private ministrations. A wealthy young laird, the representative of a distinguished family, had been induced, in spite of a pious training, to plunge headlong into a wicked career. With an impaired constitution, he was attacked by disease, and his conscience, stimulated by early associations, began to indicate a softening of his heart, in a gush of tenderness towards his unhappy partner and neglected children. Although he reluctantly assented to his wife's proposal to send for "Culfargie," she resolved to do so, and the worthy minister was at the young man's bedside in the space of forty minutes. The result of the first visit was anguish and penitence on the part of the sufferer, and Moncrieff rode home with a thankful and hopeful heart, attended by his faithful servant John, whom he instructed neither to unsaddle the horses nor to retire to rest, but to be ready on a moment's notice. The minister retired to his study, where he spent the night in prayer, and shortly after daybreak was again *en route* to the sick man's

¹ The following statement, however, occurs in Wodrow's 'Analecta,' iv. 134, under the date of May 25, 1730: "Mr Moncreife of Kilfergie pressed much an assertory Act about doctrine, and had a long discourse in the Committy of

Instructions to that purpose; but he is young, and a little unfit to manage such an affair. It ended, as I am told, in a recommendation to ministers to preach against the errors and other evils of the times."

chamber. His return had been anxiously looked for; and amidst the tears of a joyful household, the messenger of good tidings poured words of comfort into the converted soul. The prodigal recovered, and lived to a good old age, ending his days in happiness and peace.

On a certain occasion, when Moncrieff was remarking on the tendency to wander during prayer, his devoted attendant assured him that *he* was quite free from such a weakness. "Well, John," said Culfargie, "you shall have the best horse in my stable if, after family worship this morning, you can honestly assure me that your thoughts did not go astray." When the worthy minister rose from his knees, he said to his servant, "Now, what have you to say?" "Indeed, sir," John replied, "I thought of nothing but my devotions till the very end of your prayer, when I began to wonder whether you would give me the *saddle* along with the horse!"¹

In 1732 the General Assembly determined that where a patron thought proper to waive his right of presentation, the choice of a minister to a vacant parish should be limited to the heritors and elders, which Ebenezer Erskine shortly afterwards denounced in his "far-famed sermon" before the Synod of Perth and Stirling, as an invasion of the people's rights.² When subsequently taken to task for what Dr Young terms his "faithfulness," Erskine was vigorously supported by Moncrieff, who "had the honour of being one of the four"³ who were suspended from the fulfilment of their ministerial functions. While protesting against the "unjust" judgment of the Assembly, the four seceders declared themselves to be formally separated from the judicatories of the Church of Scotland, but continued to minister to their flocks in their respective parishes. Moncrieff appears to have had considerable misgivings as to the propriety of the schism, but he ultimately cast in his lot with the three other founders of the "Secession Church," and, after various proceedings, was formally deposed by the General Assembly, along with seven other ministers.⁴

¹ Seton's 'Budget of Anecdotes,' 2d edition, No. 196.

² The text was the 22d verse of the 118th Psalm ("The stone which the builders refused," etc.); and in the course of his address, the preacher compared a certain class of ministers in the

Synod to the Jewish builders in the days of Christ.

³ Ebenezer Erskine of Portmoak, William Wilson of Perth, James Fisher of Kinclaven, and Alexander Moncrieff of Abernethy.

⁴ Ralph Erskine of Dunfermline, Thomas Mair

For a time he continued to officiate in the parish church as heretofore, from which the secular authorities showed no particular haste to eject him. Driven at last, however, from the church, he preached in the adjoining churchyard, under the shadow of the venerable Pictish tower, until a meeting-house was erected for the use of his congregation.¹

In February 1742—ten years after the secession—Moncrieff was appointed professor of divinity by the Associate Presbytery, in succession to Wilson of Perth. Wilson, who was named after William of Orange, is said to have combined “the excellencies of both Erskines with excellencies peculiar to himself,” and it is recorded that he filled the chair “with great ability, zeal, and faithfulness.” He proved an active member of the Associate Presbytery, and took his full share in framing the Act concerning the doctrine of Grace and the Act for renewing the Covenants. The infant Church gradually extended to three presbyteries, under the name of the “Associate Synod,” but was soon split into two nearly equal parties by the controversy about the burgess oath, known in Scottish ecclesiastical history as the “Breach.” Moncrieff was warmly opposed to the oath, and wished to make a testimony against it a condition of ecclesiastical fellowship. In commenting upon his conduct, his biographer exhibits himself as a consistent seceder and an uncompromising partisan. “Here,” he says, “he was right and he was wrong. He was right in doing homage to his honest convictions, even by the sacrifice of cherished friendship; and we believe he was right in the view which he took of the merits of the question at issue. But he was wrong—decidedly wrong, and so were all who followed him, especially as adherents to the State-church principle—in taking measures which compelled a separation from those who were cordially at one with him on all the vital points for which they had been hitherto contending.”

The excerpts from the first volume of the ‘Records of the Associate Session of Abernethy’ embrace various particulars relative to Moncrieff’s ministry, as well as that of Matthew, his son and successor. They also

of Orwell, James Thomson of Burntisland, and Thomas Nairn of Abbotshall, and the others mentioned in the preceding note.

¹ The date of erection—1743—appears on what formed the keystone of the meeting-house, now

built into the south gable of the new United Presbyterian Church of Abernethy, at the entrance to which is a sculptured head of Alexander Moncrieff. The meeting-house was demolished in 1866.

contain some curious illustrations of the Church discipline of the period, which will doubtless be regarded as not a little rigorous in these days of tolerance and freedom.¹ Thus, under date July 5, 1746, we find that—

“Jean Young, in Arngask paroch, compearing before the Session, confessed that she was guilty of the sin of joining in promiscuous dancing, declaired her sorrow for it, was rebuked, admonished, and removed.”

On the 26th of May 1752, “the Session having met, John Dove, who was reported to have gone to a penny wedding, was called in and enquired if the report was true. He confessed it was; he was removed; and the Session, considering the affair, agree that he be rebuked just now for the same, in the name of our L. J. C., the alone K. and H. of the Church, and admonished to more watchfulness for the future. He was again called in, and the same intimate to him, and rebuked and admonished accordingly. Closed with prayer.”

July 17, 1753.—“*Eodem die*, the Session agree to call Jean Hoy, who should have gone one day and heard a Burgher minister, which being done, she was interrogate if the report was true. Acknowledged it was, and professed her sorrow for it. They agree, after consideration, that she be rebuked just now, and admonished in the name of the Lord J. C., the alone K. and H. of his Church, which was done by the Moderator accordingly. Whereupon she was removed.”

Dec. 12, 1757.—“The Session met, and constitute with prayer by Mr Math. Moncrieff. *Sedt.*—Mr Alexr. Moncrieff (minr.), William Henderson, and others (elders and deacons). Compeared William Walker, acknowledging his sin in traveling upon the Sabbath-day, and also in going to the Established Church, and when found fault with for so doing, he went to Orwell for some time, and heard Mr Mair. The Session agreed to delay the affair at present. William being called, this was intimate to him.”

July 13, 1760.—“The Session met and constitute with prayer. . . . Michael Lawson compearing, and owning his sin in leaving the Secession principles, and going to hear the Established Church, was dismissed with a Sessional rebuke. James Cree was also rebuked for going to hear the abettors of the Burgess oath, having confessed his sin in so doing. John Dron had the same censure inflicted on him for being drunk some time ago, and being too remiss in seeking the scandal purged, and in suing for admittance to the Lord's Table.”

While he lamented the “Erastian spirit” which began to characterise the councils of the Church of his fathers, Moncrieff never cherished the slightest disaffection to the House of Hanover, although surmises to that

¹ For access to these Records we are indebted to the courtesy of the late Rev. John Clark, minister of the United Presbyterian Church of Aber-

nethy, who married a daughter of Dr Young, Culfargie's biographer.

effect are said to have been industriously circulated. During the troubles of 1745, so ardent was his zeal against the "detested race" of the Stuarts that he not only prayed for the reigning monarch in presence of their adherents, but declined to pay the "cess" which was exacted in support of their cause; and in consequence of his refusal, his cattle and furniture were seized, and his eldest son carried off to prison. Four years afterwards—in 1749—the youthful prisoner became his father's colleague in the ministry. Culfargie, however, continued for several years to work very laboriously in his sacred calling; but in the summer of 1761, his powers gave such indications of exhaustion, that he came to the conclusion that his end was not far off. At the funeral of a brother minister in August of that year, he said to the assembled mourners: "My brother has got the start of me. It was a question whether he or I should be first removed. The Lord has decided it. He knows who are ripe." He closed his earthly pilgrimage on the 7th of October 1761, in the sixty-seventh year of his age and forty-second of his ministry, and on the Sunday following his son and successor addressed a sorrowing congregation on the words of St Matt. xiv. 12: "His disciples came and took up the body and buried it, and went and told Jesus."

Moncrieff's published works are as follows:—

The Deity of Jesus Christ proved and asserted from the Holy Scriptures. Edinburgh. 1730. 8vo.

The Duty of contending for the Faith. A Sermon. Edinburgh. 1732. 8vo.

An Enquiry into the Principle, Rule, and End of Moral Actions. Edinburgh. 1735. 8vo.

A Review and Examination of some Principles in Campbell's Discourse, proving that the Apostles were no Enthusiasts. Edinburgh. 1735. Sm. 8vo.

Christ's Call to the rising Generation considered. Three Sermons. Edinburgh. 1740.

Act of the Associate Presbytery concerning the doctrine of Grace (jointly with Ebenezer Erskine). Edinburgh. 1744. 8vo.

The Duty of National Covenanting explained. Edinburgh. 1747. 12mo.

An Examination of the separating Brethren's pretended Right to the Exercise of the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. 1748.

Animadversions upon Mr Ralph Erskine's Fancy, Still no Faith, etc. 1749.

England's Alarm. Edinburgh. 1756. 8vo.

Sermons and Tracts. Two vols. 1779.

While almost everything that Moncrieff wrote is of a decidedly *practical* character, his compositions evince a very respectable amount of scholarship, as well as a familiar acquaintance with systematic divinity. The two subjects which appear to have been chiefly in his mind are—concern for the advancement of true godliness, and an apprehension of national judgment for prevailing iniquity. Naturally ardent in temperament, he delivered his discourses with great fluency and animation, and generally succeeded in arresting the attention of his hearers. In his earlier years he appears to have been frequently overcome by his constitutional impulsiveness, over which, however, his victory ultimately became all but complete. He was chiefly distinguished by the depth of his devotional spirit, and was essentially "a man of prayer," in which he habitually engaged three times every day, besides frequently retiring for the purpose as accident or inclination prompted. Even when in company he would sometimes advance to the window, as if to look out upon nature, but really in order to pour forth his supplications. On one occasion, during a sudden pause in the middle of a sermon, a woman whispered to her neighbour in the pew, "Culfargie is away to heaven, and has left us all sitting here!" He occasionally preached from the centre of the magnificent old yew-tree which still adjoins the existing farmhouse of Culfargie, and was once distinctly heard praying aloud, among its branches, by a passer-by, who described the "exercise" as "a struggle with the devil." Again to quote the language of Dr Young, "There was a raciness about the living man, if waning tradition can be trusted, and a peculiarity of minor feature, which would have required an intimate contemporary, and that contemporary skilled in limning, to bring them out with adequate effect. He seems to have possessed a happy combination of practical thinking, ardour of feeling, and promptitude in action, which fitted him very peculiarly for the work of his day; and he rose to his eminence less by the strength of his intellect than by the frank, open, and manly sincerity which met the eyes of all who knew him." A country gentleman of his acquaintance, who was rebuked by him for Sabbath-breaking, indignantly inquired, "Who gave *you* a right to impede my movements?" To which Moncrieff replied, "You will learn that at the day of judgment," and

instantly walked off. The words took effect, and the contemplated desecration was abandoned. On another occasion, when a friend was pointing out to Culfargie's son and heir the desirability of certain improvements which would give the paternal acres quite a new appearance, Matthew emphatically rejoined, "*New!* my father cares for nothing new except the New Covenant."

Moncrieff appears to have been peculiarly happy in his domestic relations. He was twice married—first, in March 1722, when twenty-seven years of age, to Mary, eldest daughter of Sir John Clerk of Penicuik, Baronet, by his second wife, Christian Kilpatrick¹—an event which was marked by a very striking incident. It appears that Sir John Clerk had often observed, in the course of conversation, that it would be a very pleasant thing for a person to fall asleep at night and not awake till he found himself in heaven. On the night of his daughter's marriage, or that immediately following, when the young couple were still in his house, he retired at his usual hour, and some little time afterwards was followed by Lady Clerk, who found him quite dead, as if in a pleasant sleep, with his head resting on the palm of his hand.



The issue of Moncrieff's first marriage was an only son, Matthew, his successor in both estate and ministry; and two daughters, Christian, born in 1723, and Margaret, born in 1724, who both died in infancy.

He married, secondly, in 1728,² Jean, eldest daughter of William

¹ Sir John Clerk's two other daughters by his second wife were Christian, married to David Seton, of the family of Cariston, great-grandfather of the author of this volume; and Margaret, who married Alexander Belshes of Invermay.

² The relative contract of marriage, dated 19th September of that year, contains a provision regarding the succession to Culfargie by an heir-

female, to the effect that her husband shall assume and bear the surname of Moncrieff, without any addition whatsoever.

About the year 1600 the second daughter of Sir John Ogilvy of Innercarity married Lyon of Cossines, "of whom descended the Lyons of Wester Ogil."—Douglas's 'Baronage of Scotland,' p. 51.

Lyon of Ogil, minister of Airlie (by his first wife, Jean Melville), by whom he had fifteen children, of whom eight died in infancy. The seven surviving children appear to have been—



1. William, minister of the Associate Congregation at Alloa, born in 1729, and married in 1759 to Margaret, daughter of Hugh Wilson, merchant in Edinburgh, by whom he had (besides eight daughters—viz., Jessie (or Janet), married to the Rev. Mr Stewart; Jean, married to the Rev. Mr Blair; Margaret, married to the Rev. Mr Taylor; Williamina, married to Mr Andrew Farmer; Ann, married to Mr Johnstone; Elizabeth, married to the Rev. Mr Stark; Agnes, married to the Rev. George Jerment; and Rachel, married to Dr Ogilvie) two sons—

(1.) Alexander, Antiburgher minister at Muckhart, born in 1760, married to Grizel Ellis, by whom he had six sons and four daughters—William, Adam, Alexander (twin with Adam), Robert, Hugh, and John-Coventry; Helen, Margaret, Christian, and Alexis, of whom the last—a posthumous child—was born 24th March 1804.

Of the daughters, three were married; while of the sons, Robert had a daughter, Ann (Mrs Cuthbertson), and a son, Alexander, whose daughter, Maud, now resides in Melbourne; and Hugh, writer in Glasgow, married, 16th June 1826, Hope-Margaret, daughter of John Pattison of Kelvin-grove, by whom he had (besides three daughters, Hope-Margaret; Grace-Alice, married to the Rev. George C. M. Douglas, D.D., Principal of the Free Church College, Glasgow; and Margaret, who died a few days after her birth) four sons—

1st, Alexander, born 1827, called to the Scottish Bar 1852, appointed advocate-depute 1862, and Sheriff of Ross and Cromarty in January 1869. He married his cousin, Hope-Margaret Pattison, by whom he had three sons and six daughters, of whom the eldest son, Hugh, writer in Glasgow,

married, 28th August 1890, Emily-Edith, youngest daughter of Henry Dubs, locomotive builder, Glasgow.

Sheriff Moncrieff died, at a comparatively early age, on the 1st of June 1870, his death having been caused by a sudden and severe attack of inflammation of the lungs. He had attained an important position at the Bar, and gave promise of further distinction.

"He possessed in a remarkable degree that fertility of resource and readiness in debate essential to a leader. . . . Perhaps the most striking quality of his mind was its great rapidity. . . . Nor was this mental facility attained (as it too often is) at the cost of better qualities, for his judgment was just as sound as his intellect was acute. . . . His happiest efforts were when he addressed a jury, but his more exclusively legal debates were often remarkably close, skilful, and powerful. . . . In politics he was a Whig—sound, staunch, and even keen; but in politics, as in other matters, he was liberal-minded in the truest sense, and constitutionally tolerant of conflicting opinions. . . . As to his private qualities, nobody who knew him, even for a short time, could fail to remark that simplicity, generosity, friendship, and truthfulness—that geniality and love of humour—which made him perhaps the most popular member of the Bar."¹

Sheriff Moncrieff's three younger brothers were—

2d, John-Pattison, }
3d, Hugh, } who both died young.

4th, William, died 1873, leaving a posthumous daughter.

The second son of William Moncrieff, minister at Alloa, was—

(2.) Hugh, physician in Alloa, who died unmarried.

The other surviving children of the Rev. Alexander Moncrieff of Culfargie by his second wife, Jean Lyon, were as follows—

2. George, physician in Perth, married to his cousin Janet, youngest daughter of Hugh Lyon of Ogil, by whom he had a son, Alexander, and four daughters—Margaret, married to the Rev. Dr James Grierson, minister of Errol; Barbara-Gibson; Elizabeth-Stevenson; and Jane.

3. Ebenezer, born in 1751, and no doubt named after his father's friend Erskine.

1st daughter, Margaret, married to the Rev. Mr Murray of Lockerbie.

¹ 'Edinburgh Courant,' 3d June 1870.

2d, Agnes, married to Robert Cuningham of Balgownie.

3d, Anne, married to Captain Hutchison of Burntisland.

4th, Jean (born 1748), married to the Rev. Alexander Pringle, D.D., of Perth.¹

On his death in October 1761, Alexander Moncrieff of Culfargie was succeeded by his eldest son—

VI. MATTHEW MONCRIEFF of Culfargie, born in 1725, who, as already stated, was appointed colleague to his father in the Associate Congregation of Abernethy, in 1749. He married, a few years afterwards,² Ann, eldest daughter of Dr John Scott of Coats, by his first wife Magdalene, daughter and heiress of David Moncrieff of Easter Rhynd (see pages 96 and 127), by whom he had three sons and seven daughters—

1. Alexander, his successor.

2. John, born in 1754.

3. Robert, Lieutenant Royal Navy, born 1763, and died 1798. Buried in the churchyard of Greyfriars, Edinburgh.

1st daughter, Hope-Margaret, born 1755, married to John Pattison, Esq. of Kelvingrove.

2d, Mary, born 1757, and died unmarried.³

3d, Magdalene, born 1758; married, first, to Captain Nasmyth, R.N., and, secondly, to William Pattison, Esq., Glasgow.

4th, Jean, born 1759, married to William Maxwell of Bredland, county Renfrew.

5th, Elizabeth, born 1760, and died in 1848, having married the Rev.

¹ Except in the case of William and Ebenezer, the dates of the birth of Culfargie's children by his second wife cannot be ascertained from the Baptismal Register of Abernethy, which is wanting between 1733 and 1749. They are given in the text, however, in the order in which they are specified in a bond of provision by their father, dated 2d April 1750 and 25th May 1753.—Culfargie Writs.

² The post-nuptial contract of marriage is dated at Glentarky, 19th July 1762, and refers

to the fact of their having been married for several years.—Culfargie Writs.

³ "At a Perth dinner-party, the late Mr Thomas Duncan, Procurator-Fiscal, sitting opposite Miss Mary Moncrieff of Culfargie, an elderly spinster without any pretensions to good looks, thus addressed her: 'Now, Miss Mary, I'll give you a toast—"Honest men and bonnie lasses!"' 'I can drink that without any compunction,' the old lady replied, 'for it applies to neither you nor me!'"—Seton's 'Budget of Anecdotes,' 2d edition, No. 418.

George Jerment, D.D., of Oxendon Chapel, London, whose first wife was Agnes, daughter of the Rev. William Moncrieff, minister at Alloa.

6th, Margaret, born 1761.

7th, Binny (Robina ?), born 1764.

There is a special and general charge on record, dated and signeted 3d October 1765, at the instance of Mr William Binning, against Matthew Moncrieff of Culfargie, to enter himself *heir-male of line* and of provision in special to Major John Moncrieff, his great-granduncle, Mr Matthew Moncrieff, his grandfather, and Mr Alexander Moncrieff, his father, or one or other of them, in the teinds of the lands of Culfargie. We have already seen an indication of the failure of the male descendants of Matthew Moncrieff of Easter Rhynd (third surviving son of Matthew Moncrieff of Kintillo) in the year 1681, which is further confirmed by this "charge" of 1765.

Before entering upon his clerical duties, Matthew Moncrieff was for a short time in the army, and is said to have sometimes preached in his red coat during the "troublous" times of the '45. A tradition is preserved in the parish of Abernethy of his having once preached from the venerable yew already referred to, from the words addressed by our Lord to Nathanael (John i. 48): "When thou wast *under the fig-tree*, I saw thee." On another occasion, during his father's lifetime, while riding to church (from Glentarky), attended by a servant, he killed a hare, which happened to cross his path, by a blow from his riding-whip. The circumstance reached the ears of one Pearson, a member of the Associate Kirk Session, who insisted upon the minister being "dealt with" as a Sabbath-breaker! No notice, however, of the relative procedure appears in the records of the congregation.

Matthew Moncrieff of Culfargie died on the 6th of June 1767—only six years after his father—at the comparatively early age of forty-two. From a minute relative to the opening of his repositories, dated — 1768,¹ it appears that, in addition to his widow, Sir James Clerk, Baronet, Robert Scott-Moncrieff, and William Binning, advocate, agreed to act as tutors and curators to his son and successor—

VII. ALEXANDER MONCRIEFF of Culfargie, born in 1751, who, prior

¹ Culfargie Writs.

to the year 1780, sold the estate of Culfargie to the Earl of Wemyss, retaining the superiority, and purchased Barnhill (or Woodend), near Perth, from Sir Stuart Thriepland.¹ He appears to have been "indentured" in 1768 by Walter Scott, writer to the signet (father of the author of 'Waverley'?). In 1771 he was admitted as a burgess of the city of Perth, and seven years afterwards became a member of the "Old Revolution Club" in Edinburgh.² When the Perth Academy enjoyed a high reputation, and was attended by young men of very good birth, this laird was sometimes troubled by juvenile raids against his productive orchard on the banks of the Tay. Accordingly he resolved to put a stop to the practice in a very original manner. In anticipation of an evening incursion, he placed some of his servants in ambush, who quietly awaited the arrival of a boat, and pouncing upon its occupants, brought them before Culfargie in his magisterial capacity. He remarked that there must surely be some mistake, as the supposed culprits were young gentlemen, and courteously invited them to supper, at which they were royally entertained. He then despatched them in their boat with a large hamper of apples, and after this hospitable reception, Barnhill was never again the scene of an orchard raid. On another occasion, while strolling along the Barnhill avenue before breakfast, he was accosted by a gaberlunzie, who said, in a piteous tone, "Ech! sir, I have no' had onything to eat since yesterday, and to-morrow will be the *third* day! This was, of course, Culfargie's own condition,

¹ This appears from a contract and agreement, in the year 1780, betwixt Mrs Ann Scott-Moncrieff, relict of Matthew Moncrieff of Culfargie, and Alexander Moncrieff, his eldest son, relative to the payment of her annuity. In a disposition of the estate, executed in 1805 (to be afterwards referred to), it is described as "the lands of Barnhill and Woodend of Kinnoul." As already stated, the Manor of Barnhill belonged to the Moncrieffs of Kintillo as early as 1639, and to a certain "James Moncrefe" in 1585 (see page 79). It includes Moncreiffe island, now held in feu from it by Sir Robert Moncreiffe. Barnhill passed into the Thriepland family as the dowry

of the second wife of Sir David Thriepland of Fingask, attainted in 1715, who is known in Scottish song as the "Lass o' Gowrie."

² Culfargie Writs. As already stated (*supra*, p. 6), the family of Moncrieff has generally been characterised by the display of Whig principles. *When* the Culfargie line first enrolled itself under the Conservative banner does not very clearly appear, but there can be no doubt that neither this laird nor his son and successor professed the usual politics of their House. "Call me a thief, or a blackguard, or anything you like," Captain Matthew Moncrieff used to say, "rather than a Whig!"

but he was so tickled by the humour of the statement that he gave the mendicant a shilling on the spot. He married, in 1779, Janet, daughter of Alexander Veitch, and heiress of Hugh Veitch of Craigduckie and Broomhead, by whom he had (besides a daughter, Robina-Scott, born 1781, and married to Captain John Eckford of the H.E.I. Company's Navy¹) four sons—



1. Matthew, his heir.
2. John-William, born 1781, Major of Engineers H.E.I.C.S., married to Miss Hill, by whom he had one daughter, Robina-Scott, married to Dr Edie. Major Moncrieff distinguished himself in India by carrying a road-way across the Ghauts under considerable difficulties.
3. Alexander, born 1784, died unmarried in 1819.
4. Robert-Hope, born 1786, writer to the signet, married, in 1810, to Isabella, eldest daughter of George Aitken of Todhall, by whom he had three sons and five daughters—

(1.) Alexander, of Tayside and Pitcastle, writer to the signet, born 1815, died 1886; married in 1843 to Euphemia-Dick, eldest daughter of Major-General John Cunningham of Newton, and had issue five sons and three daughters: Robert-Hope, writer to the signet, John-Cunningham, Alexander, William-Dalgairns-Scott, George; Marjory, Isabella-Mary, and Euphemia-Dick-Cunningham.

(2.) George, writer in Perth, born 1817, and died 1865, having been thrice married,—first to Angela (died 1847), daughter of Captain John Birch, by whom he had, besides a daughter Angela, who died young, two sons—Robert-Hope, author of a number of popular works, under the *nom de plume* of "Ascott R. Hope," and John-Forbes, chartered accountant, married to Jane-Eliza, third daughter of Thomas Todd, Esq. of Boothsgreen, Edinburgh; secondly, to Maria (who died in 1862), daughter of Major Rodgers,

¹ Captain Eckford was drowned shortly after his marriage.

by whom also he had two sons—George-Henry and Francis-Edward ; and thirdly, to Isabella, daughter of Captain Roy, without issue.

(3.) Robert, born about 1819, and died young.

1st daughter, Janet, married to the Rev. John W. Thomson of Moneydie.

2d, Robina-Johanna, married to Laurence Robertson, Esq., cashier of the Royal Bank, Edinburgh.

3d, Isabella, married to David Craigie, Esq., cashier of the Perth Bank.

4th, Mary.

5th, Margaret-Yeaman.

In a disposition and deed of entail of his estate executed by Alexander Moncrieff of Culfargie and Barnhill, in the year 1805, failing his four sons and their heirs male, their heirs female are called to the succession, the husbands of such heirs female being required "to assume, bear, use, and carry the surname of Moncrieff, and the arms and designation of Moncrieff of Culfargie."¹ Alexander Moncrieff of Culfargie and Barnhill died in April 1817, within three months after the decease of his wife, as indicated in the following inscription on his monument in the churchyard of Abernethy :—

"Sacred to the memory of Alexander Moncrieff of Culfargie, whose remains were here deposited, amongst the ashes of his fathers of many generations, upon the first day of May 1817: a man embellished with many virtues, amongst which honour, generosity, and humanity were conspicuous. As a husband, parent, and master, he endeared himself; and as a friend and companion he was beloved. His wife, Janet Veitch, adorned with every female virtue, having died on the fourth day of February 1817, he lingered in disconsolation, and dropt into the hands of his Redeemer. Eheu!"²

Alexander Moncrieff of Culfargie and Barnhill was succeeded, in 1817, by his eldest son—

¹ Culfargie Writs.

² The Culfargie burial-ground occupies the westmost of three adjoining compartments in the middle of the churchyard of Abernethy, of which the two others belong to the estates of Ayton and Carpow.

The circumstances recorded in the above

epitaph recall the two Latin verses composed by Lord Thirlstane on the death of his father, Sir Richard Maitland, which occurred on the same day as that of his wife :—

"Unus hymen, mens una, duos nioris una diesque
Junxit, ut una caro, sic cinis unus erit."

—'Del. Poet. Scot.' iii. 141.

VIII. MATTHEW MONCRIEFF of Culfargie and Barnhill, captain in the Madras Cavalry, born 28th May 1783.

When serving under Sir Archibald Campbell in the Burmese campaign, Captain Moncrieff had occasion to cross a tributary of the Irrawaddy at the head of his troops, when the bridge gave way, and nearly all his men were drowned. The captain was swept away by the stream, but he contrived to swim to the bank in a very exhausted condition, from which he was resuscitated by the aid of some kindly natives. A leather desk, which formed a portion of his kit, was found at the mouth of the Irrawaddy, and ultimately returned to him. His immersion was followed by fever, which necessitated his return to England. He was engaged in several exciting exploits in connection with irregular cavalry, during the war with the Maharattas; and on one occasion his life was saved by one of his troopers throwing his body in the way, so as to receive the spear-wound of an enemy, which cost the brave soldier his life. Captain Moncrieff was very popular with his men, among whom he was in the habit of dividing the "loot" which fell to his share.

An old Waterloo trooper—Timothy Gentry by name—occupied a cottage near the entrance to Barnhill, from whom Captain Moncrieff occasionally borrowed sixpence to give to a passing beggar. One morning when they happened to meet, the captain said to Timothy, "I think I owe you sixpence"; to which Timothy promptly replied, "A shilling, your honour; I scorn to tell a lie!"



He married, 6th June 1826, Isabella, daughter of Alex. Campbell, Esq. (and sister of Alex. Campbell of Cammo), by whom he had four sons and two daughters—

1. Alexander, his successor.
 2. Archibald, born 1830, died unmarried in 1860.
 3. Matthew, born 1832, died unmarried in 1878.
 4. Robert-Hope, born 1841, murdered by the Kaffirs on the frontier of Basutoland and Natal in 1866.
- 1st daughter, Elizabeth-Helen, born 1833.

2d, Janet, married, in 1870, to the Rev. Ninian Wight, and died 24th January 1877.

Captain Moncrieff of Culfargie and Barnhill died in 1843, and was succeeded by his eldest son—

IX. ALEXANDER MONCRIEFF of Culfargie and Barnhill, born 17th April 1829. Educated at the universities of Edinburgh and Aberdeen, he entered the office of Messrs Millar & Grainger, C.E., in Edinburgh, where he served his time as a civil engineer. He did not, however, follow the profession, but obtained a commission in the Forfarshire Artillery Militia, and afterwards in the Edinburgh or Third Brigade, Scotch Division, Royal Artillery, of which he ultimately became Colonel-Commandant.

Colonel Moncrieff has travelled extensively in the four quarters of the globe, and received the thanks of her Majesty's Government for topographical information furnished to the Colonial Office in London, at the special request of Sir Francis Head, Governor-General of Canada.

During the Crimean campaign, when a lieutenant in the Forfarshire Militia, he went to the seat of war, and obtained permission from the Commander-in-Chief to visit the siege works, and to be present at the operations, as a militia officer, during the first and second bombardments of Sevastopol. It was then that the idea of the invention with which Colonel Moncrieff's name is associated occurred to his mind, but some years elapsed before it assumed a practical shape. It was first submitted to General Sir Richard Dacres, commanding the Royal Artillery in Ireland, while the inventor was under his command in 1857, but it was some years before the authorities were induced to give the system a trial. Colonel Moncrieff was subsequently engaged for eight years in the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, attached to the department of the Director of Artillery.

The Moncrieff system of mounting artillery, or the protected barbette arrangement, is sometimes called "the disappearing system," because, upon firing, the gun recoils into shelter out of sight of the enemy, and the energy of the recoil is stored up so as to raise the gun, when loaded, into the firing position. In the first instance, this was effected by means of a counter-weight and the interposition of a moving fulcrum, then for the first time

employed in practical mechanics, which enabled the sudden impetus of the discharge to be utilised without danger to the carriage.

Another method by which the same end is accomplished, and which is applicable to sea-service as well as to many cases in which the direct force of gravity would be unwieldy or unsuitable, is Colonel Moncrieff's "Hydropneumatic system." By this mode the recoil of the gun drives down a piston, which forces water into a vessel of compressed air, and the further compression of the air stores up the energy of the recoil to raise the gun, when required, to the firing position. There are many other minor inventions connected with this system (such as reflecting sights, by which the gun can be laid without the exposure of any man), which the inventor has introduced. His system is now largely and increasingly used in the British service by both land and sea, and also by many foreign Governments.

The value of the "Moncrieff system" does not merely consist in the mechanical ingenuity of working the gun, and utilising the force of recoil, to control which, and check its destructive effects, had long been one of the most difficult problems in artillery; but in the economic simplification of fortifications, from the increased range and security given to each gun, which can have an all-round fire, as well as complete invisibility, except at the moment of discharge. For the first time in the history of artillery, it has been made possible to completely protect the gunner from direct fire, without ports or embrasures. A new era is thus practically inaugurated, not only in the use of heavy artillery, but in the construction of fortifications.

Colonel Moncrieff is the author of a series of papers, extending over twenty years, illustrating and advocating the importance of invisibility, the dispersion of heavy guns, and the use of parapets, with their superior slope formed *en glaxis*, which are the chief characteristics of his invention. The system may be described as the *converse* of the old and previously universal system, which was characterised by conspicuous visibility, the massing of heavy guns, and the employment either of embrasures or of something equally visible to the enemy. The old system of fortification, with its last development in the great iron-coated works, has been discontinued wherever possible; while the system advocated by Colonel Moncrieff is now

the chief alternative employed in works of fortification throughout the empire.¹

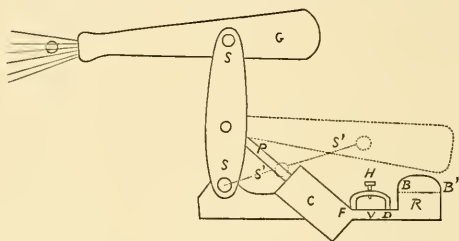
The following amusing skit, written about seventeen years ago, gives a clever description of the Hydro-pneumatic system.

"THE DISAPPEARING SYSTEM.

Scene.—Senate House, Cambridge, in 1873.

Scribit.—A 'Classical Man.'

Question.—Describe Moncrieff's Hydro-Pneumatic Gun.



Guns and the man I sing, whom Perthshire sent
To instruct the South in naval armament ;
O heavenly Muse ! direct my faltering pen,
The allotted marks assist me to obtain !

G is a gun ; *S S*—which upright make—
Two firm supports ; these downward movement take
In the fair paper's plane—see *S' S'* (dashed) ;
A piston *P*, which may at will be quashed
Into a cylinder of water *C*,
Communicating by a pipe, past *V*,
With *R*, a strong receiver ; here we have
The hints my further explanations crave.

¹ In noticing a recent invention for mechanically starting tramway cars, with the view of saving the horses a severe strain, the 'Spectator' of 16th August 1890 states that "the principle involved consists in utilising the spring-power given off from the working of the brake-springs, and storing that power for the purpose of facilitating the re-starting of the car. The actual de-

tails are not easy to follow, but we take it that *the main idea is like that of the Moncrieff gun*. There the force of the recoil is utilised to sink the gun. Here the force exerted to stop the wheels is stored up so as to make them revolve when they are required to be again put in motion."

See also Butler's 'Court Life in Egypt' (1887) p. 128.

Gun placed, as figured, and the missile belched,—
 The opposing Frenchman—Russian—yet unsquelched,—
 If frugal Baxter grant the needed oil,
 Down comes the piece in swift and smooth recoil ;
 Squash goes the piston, out the steam, and splash !
 The level rises—say to *B B'* (dash).

What then ? 'Twill fall ? No,—this defect to salve,
 The wily Scot makes *V* a backstop valve ;
 A store of hoarded pressure we have here,
 Which may be drawn, as Sally draws the beer.

But how to employ this pent pneumatic force
 To raise the mass, and recommence our course ?
 A tube from *F* to *D* is all we need,—
 By this the imprisoned liquid may be freed ;
 As *H*, a cock, permits or checks the flow,
 The loaded gun goes quickly up or slow.

REFLECTION.

Should end-on firing be the sailors' care,
 How great the merits of this system are !
 Why load the deck with ponderous iron tower ?
 Sink monster rifle-pits both aft and fore ;
 Let each three isolated guns contain,
 To rise through trap-doors, and come down again ;
 The tar, from dread of repercussion freed,
 Gives chase with six, where two supplied his need,
 While tons of metal, saved, are put to use,
 The ship to strengthen, or the accounts reduce."

Colonel Moncrieff is one of the Royal Scottish Archers (Queen's Body-Guard), a Justice of Peace for Perthshire, a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, a Fellow of the Royal Society, a member of the Athenæum and United Service Clubs, and Chairman of the Board of Management of the Oxford Military College, with which he has been connected since its institution. He is a Knight of the Imperial Order of the Rose of Brazil, which honour was conferred upon him by the

Emperor in one of his journeys in search of scientific information, when he was made acquainted with Colonel Moncrieff's invention. In



1880 Colonel Moncrieff was created a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

He married, 20th April 1875, Harriet-Mary, only daughter of James Rimington-Wilson, Esq. of Broomhead Hall, Yorkshire, by whom he has (besides two daughters, Maud-Isobel, born 21st March 1877, and May-Gladys, born 3d May 1889) five sons—

1. Malcolm-Matthew, born 8th January 1876.
2. Gerard-Alexander, born 23d August 1878.
3. Alaric-Rimington, born 21st March 1880.
4. Roger-Murray, born 28th November 1885.
5. Duncan-Campbell, born 25th September 1890.

Among the family portraits in the possession of Colonel Moncrieff are the following :—

The Rev. Alexander Moncrieff, minister of Scoonie.

Margaret Mitchell (Balbardie), wife of Matthew Moncrieff of Culfargie.

The Rev. Alexander Moncrieff of Culfargie and his first wife,
Mary Clerk (Penicuik).

The Rev. Matthew Moncrieff of Culfargie and his wife,
Ann Scott (Coats).

Robert Scott-Moncrieff—by *Racburn*.

Alexander Moncrieff of Culfargie and Barnhill (*ob.* 1817).

Captain Matthew Moncrieff of Culfargie and Barnhill and his wife,
Isabella Campbell.

Robina-Scott Moncrieff, wife of Captain Eckford.

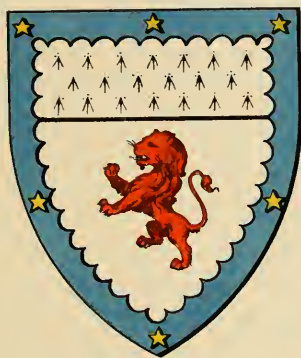
Colonel Alexander Moncrieff and his wife,

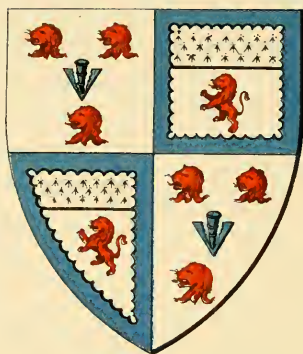
Harriet-Mary Rimington-Wilson.

The arms borne by the Culfargie family for several generations, as engraved on a seal in the possession of the present representative, are the undifferenced coat of Moncrieff—viz., Argent, a lion rampant gules, armed and langued azure; a chief ermine. *Crest*—A demi-lion gules. *Motto*—*Sûr Espérance*. The bearings matriculated as those of Culfargie


in the Lyon Register, 1st May 1790, during the lifetime of the grandfather of the present representative, are as follows : Argent, a lion rampant gules, armed and langued azure, and a chief ermine, all within a bordure engrailed of the third, charged with six stars or. *Crest*—A lion's head erased gules, langued azure. *Motto*—Espérance.

It is not known at whose instigation these arms were recorded, but they have never been borne by the family of Culfargie.





THE SCOTT-MONCRIEFFS OF COATS,
RHYND, AND NEWHALLS,
AFTERWARDS OF FOSSAWAY (CADETS OF CULFARGIE).

I.  AVID MONCRIEFF of Easter Rhynd, clerk to the Privy Council during the reign of William III., and youngest son of the Rev. Alexander Moncrieff, minister of Scoonie (see page 94), had by his wife, Ann, eldest daughter of John Dundas of Duddingston¹ (besides five other children, who all died young or unmarried), a daughter, Magdalene, who, on the 20th of October 1730, married—



II. JOHN SCOTT of Coats, M.D., and suc-

¹ John Dundas of Duddingston was son of George Dundas by Catherine Monypeny of Pitmilly. He married Agnes, only daughter of Sir

David Carmichael of Balmedie by his wife Anne, daughter of James, first Lord Carmichael, ancestor of the Earls of Hyndford.

ceeded to her father's estate. Dr Scott was the eldest son (by his wife Margaret Fleming¹) of Robert Scott of Coats, who followed the profession of surgeon in Kirkcaldy, and purchased the estate of Coats from Sir William Hope of Craighall in the year 1704. In a letter from his grandson (Robert Scott-Moncrieff, afterwards referred to) to Robert Wellwood of Pitliver, written about the year 1772, the following passage occurs: "Robert Scott made his way with a good character as a surgeon. His father was not a man of property, but distinguished himself by his opposition to Government in persecuting times, and on that account was confined eight years in prison. This is all I know about him, though it is the tradition of the family that he was of the Scotts of Balwearie." The writer adds that both of his grandfathers—Robert Scott and David Moncrieff—were "violent Whigs," that they were obliged to live in Holland for some time before the Revolution, and that both of them accompanied William of Orange to England.²



John Scott of Coats adopted his father's profession, and studied at Leyden under the celebrated Dr Boerhaave. He obtained the degree of M.D. in 1712—the date of his thesis, which is dedicated to Sir John Scott of Scotstarvit, being July 20th of that year.

By his first wife, Magdalene Moncrieff, who died in November 1739, Dr Scott had two sons and four daughters—

1. David, who died in childhood.
2. Robert, who succeeded to Coats and Rhynd.

The eldest daughter, Ann, married her cousin, Matthew Moncrieff of Culfargie;³ while the other three daughters—Margaret, Mary, and Christian—all died unmarried, of whom Margaret survived till 1825, when she had reached her ninetieth year.

Dr Scott married, secondly, Jean, daughter of William Gourlay of Kin-

¹ A brother of Margaret Fleming is said to have been implicated in the murder of Archbishop Sharp.

² Fossaway Writs.

³ See page 114, *supra*.

craig,¹ by whom he had six children, of whom two were married, but left no issue—viz. :

1. William, who died —.

2. Jean, born 1745, married in 1791 to Captain Cuninghame of Pitarthie, R.N., and died in 1839, in the ninety-fourth year of her age.

Dr Scott died 1st February 1765, when he was succeeded in his estate of Coats by his eldest surviving son—

III. ROBERT SCOTT, merchant in Edinburgh, born 17th January 1738,



who had previously succeeded to his mother's property of Rhynd, when he assumed the additional surname of *Moncrieff*. Robert Scott-Moncrieff married first, in 1765, Jean (who died in 1770), eldest daughter of William Hogg,² merchant and banker in Edinburgh (descended from the family of Harcarse), by his second wife, Jean, daughter of Charles Stuart of Dunearn, by whom he had an only surviving son, William. In the year 1802 he sold his estates

of Coats and Rhynd, and at the same time succeeded to the property of Newhalls, in terms of a deed of entail executed in his favour by his cousin, David Dundas of Duddingston and Newhalls.

Robert Scott-Moncrieff married, secondly, Ann (who died in 1829), eldest daughter of Robert Wellwood of Garvock and Pitliver,³ by whom he had one son, Robert, who ultimately succeeded to these estates,

¹ The old house at Elie, now the property of Mrs Alexander P. Scott-Moncrieff, was purchased as a jointure-house for the second wife of Dr John Scott after his death in 1765. It had formerly belonged to her relatives the Gourlays of Kincaig, a very old Fife family. It was occupied by Mrs Scott, known as "Liddy Coats," who lived there with her three daughters, of whom the last, who died in 1839, left it to her nephew, William Scott-Moncrieff, grandfather of the present representative of the family.

² Son of Andrew Hogg, writer to the signet, by Jean, daughter of the Rev. John St Clair, minister of Ormiston, whose father was brother

of the Laird of Hermandston.

From an old diary it appears that the curious piece of tapestry now in the possession of the Fossaway family, representing incidents in the history of Rehoboam and Jeroboam, and traditionally known as "Queen Mary's screen," was procured in 1691, on behalf of William Hogg, in exchange for a kitchen-range valued at five shillings! The screen is engraved in the 'Leisure Hour' of 13th January 1872; and also in the beautiful volume relative to 'Scottish National Memorials,' published at Glasgow in 1890.

³ Her arms are given on page 129.

and took the name of Scott-Wellwood. He died without issue in 1854, when the estates devolved upon the next heir of entail, Alexander Maconochie of Meadowbank (Lord Meadowbank), the eldest son of a younger daughter of Robert Wellwood of Garvock.



In a letter to his son William, dated Glasgow, 21st November 1797, Mr Scott-Moncrieff refers to his right to the minister of Scoonie's burying-ground in Greyfriars' churchyard, Edinburgh, and says: "Much precious dust lies there. When you have leisure, I think you might look after the gravestone and get it put upon pedestals, as it formerly was—at least get the earth cleared away, so as to prevent it sinking—make a clean copy of the inscription which is upon that stone, and put it up with the Recorder's certificate. Your mother lies immediately under the stone. I should have wished to have my dust mingled with hers and worthy Alexander Moncrieff, but it has pleased Providence to cast my lot here, from whence I have no expectation or wish to be removed. It is my desire, if my dissolution, which must now be near, is ordered in this place, that my dust shall be laid beside my dear son John's; and it is not likely that any more of our family will lie there."¹

Robert Scott-Moncrieff held, for several years, the office of Receiver-General of Customs, and died 10th November 1815, when he was succeeded by the only surviving son of his first marriage—

IV. WILLIAM SCOTT-MONCRIEFF of Newhalls,² born in April 1767, who, under authority of an Act of Parliament, excambed Newhalls, in

¹ Notwithstanding this statement, the writer was interred under Scoonie's slab on the 15th of November 1815, and his second wife, Ann Wellwood, on the 31st of January 1829, in terms of a subsequent memorandum. Mr William Scott-Moncrieff appears to have obtained an estimate, in 1812, "for altering the monument, clearing the old inscription, cutting it anew, and fixing it up in the wall agreeable to the eleva-

tion." As already stated, however, the restoration of the interesting monument was carried out by Scoonie's lineal representative, Colonel Moncrieff of Culfargie, in 1871.

² The estate of Newhalls, adjoining South Queensferry, and that of Ferryhill, on the opposite coast, to which Mr William Scott-Moncrieff succeeded, provide resting-places for the south and north piers of the Forth Bridge.

1828, with the Earl of Rosebery, for the estate of Kirkton, near Bathgate, and an additional sum of money to be invested in land, in terms of the entail



and under parliamentary sanction. The property of Kirkton was sold in 1836; and the year following, the proceeds, along with the above-mentioned sum, were invested in the purchase of the estate of Fossaway, in Perthshire, to which the entail of Newhalls was transferred.

William Scott-Moncrieff, who followed the profession of accountant, married, in 1791, his cousin Elizabeth (born 10th November 1770, died 7th July 1834), youngest daughter of Thomas Hogg,¹ banker in Edinburgh, by his wife Colina, posthumous daughter of Colin Campbell, advocate, only son of Sir James Campbell of Aberuchil, Bart. He had six sons and four daughters—

1. Robert, his successor.
2. Thomas, born 1799, and died the following year.
3. David-Dundas, born 1801, abandoned the surname of Moncrieff about the year 1835, and married Mary-Catherine-Duff, daughter of John Brine, M.D., by whom he had (besides two daughters, Katherine-Jane and Elizabeth) one son, William-Dundas, born 1846, a civil engineer, the inventor of the well-known apparatus for governing the speed of steam-engines, and the first to successfully apply compressed air to the propulsion of tramway cars. He is also the author of a metrical drama entitled "Mary Queen of Scots." He has *resumed* the surname of Moncrieff in addition to that of Scott. He married Emily-Mary, eldest daughter and representative of Philip-Marie de Gilibert, secretary to the French Legation at Washington, and the last male member of an ancient family long settled in the Limousin, of whom the first is believed to have been a Scotsman, named Gilbert, who went to France with the Black Prince. Mr William-Dundas Scott-Moncrieff's eldest son is now the representative of the Giliberts.

Mr David-Dundas Scott, who was an excellent scholar, translated

¹ Only son of William Hogg already referred to, by Grizell Nimmo, of the family of Bridgehouse.

D'Aubigné's 'History of the Reformation,' Ranke's 'History of the Popes,' etc., and was a contributor to various periodicals. He died 23d November 1875, and was buried at Dalmeny.

4. Thomas (No. 2), born 29th August 1806, and died in June 1807.
5. William, born 1804, licensed by the Presbytery of Edinburgh in 1828, and presented to the parish of Penicuik towards the end of the following year. He married, first, in 1832, Hectorina, daughter of James Walker Robertson of Gilgarron, county Cumberland, who died *s.p.* in 1837; and secondly, in 1841, Mary, daughter of John Irving, writer to the signet, and niece of Alexander Irving of Newton (Lord Newton), by whom he had (besides two daughters, Agnes and Elizabeth-Joanna) one son, William-George, M.A., born 1846, called to the Scottish Bar 1870, appointed Sheriff-substitute of Banffshire 1877, and of Stirlingshire (Eastern District) 1887.

Mr William-George Scott-Moncrieff married, in 1878, Margaret, daughter of his cousin Robert Scott-Moncrieff, formerly a merchant in Calcutta (see page 132), by whom he has three sons: Colin-William, born 1879; John-Irving, born 1881; Charles-Kenneth, born 1889.

In 1853 the Rev. William Scott-Moncrieff resigned the incumbency of Penicuik on account of ill health, and died 18th February 1857.¹

6. John, chartered accountant, born 1811, married, first, to Christian Marjoribanks, who died in 1864; and secondly, in 1867, to Isabella, eldest daughter of Laurence Robertson, Esq., cashier of the Royal Bank, Edinburgh. Mr John Scott-Moncrieff died in 1889.

Of William Scott-Moncrieff's four daughters, Colina and Jane, born in 1792 and 1796, died unmarried, at Dalkeith, the former in 1851 and the latter in 1868; while Anne-Wellwood, born in 1797, married in 1829 John Erskine of Venlaw, and died in 1851; and Elizabeth, born in 1802, married Robert Mercer of Scotsbank, chief of the family of Mercer.

William Scott-Moncrieff of Fossaway died 13th December 1846, when he was succeeded by his eldest son—

V. ROBERT SCOTT-MONCRIEFF of Fossaway, born 1st December 1793. He was called to the Scottish Bar in 1818, and acted for forty years (1829-69) as one of the chamberlains of the Duke of Buccleuch and

¹ Scott's 'Fasti,' i. 306.

Queensberry. He married, first, 6th January 1820, Susannah (who died in 1840), second daughter of Alexander Pringle of Whytbank, by whom he had seven sons and four daughters—



1. William, his heir.

2. Alexander-Pringle, born 1826, Major in the 44th Bengal Infantry, married to Elizabeth, second daughter of the Rev. George Coventry of Shanwell, incumbent of Trinity Episcopal Church, and afterwards of St Peter's, Edinburgh, by whom he had (besides three daughters, Jane - Mary, Susanna-Margaret, and Edith-Elizabeth) two sons—

(1.) Robert-Henry, married to Anna-Caroline, daughter of — Martin, Esq. of Blackheath, by whom he has one son and one daughter.

(2.) George-Kenneth, Captain in the Royal Engineers, married to Helen, daughter of — Mowbray, Esq. of Naemoor, by whom he has two daughters.

Major Alexander-Pringle Scott-Moncrieff died in 1865.

3. Robert, born 1828, formerly a merchant in Calcutta, married Catharine-Mary, daughter of Dr Kenneth Mackinnon, of Bengal, by whom he has (besides five daughters—Margaret, married to her father's cousin, William-George Scott-Moncrieff, advocate; Charlotte, married to Charles Watson, Esq., and died 1881; Susan; Mary-Katharine; and Katherine), four sons: Robert-Laurence, Kenneth, William-Elmsley, and David-Douglas.
4. David, born 1829, writer to the signet, married, first, Elizabeth (who died in 1870), daughter of Robert-Sym Wilson of Woodburn, and niece of "Christopher North," by whom he had two sons—Robert, writer to the signet, and David, M.D., C.S., Canada; and three daughters—Mabel, Eliza (married to Alexander Pearson of Luce, advocate), and Joanna. He married, secondly, in October 1872, Margaret-Fisher, eldest daughter of George-William Camp-

bell, M.D., of Peiton, Dumbartonshire, Professor of Surgery and Dean of the Medical Faculty in McGill College, Montreal, a cadet of the family of Ardkinglass.

5. John-Edward, born 1831, a clergyman of the Church of England, consular-chaplain at Batavia, who died there in 1861, leaving by his wife, Arabella-Sarah, daughter of Captain James-John-M'Lean Morgan, H.E.I.C.S., one son, John-Edward, in Australia, and two daughters—Susan-Anne (married to W. Wilcocks, C.E.) and Jane-Arabella (married to Arthur Lang, C.E., Sunderland).
6. Sir Colin-Campbell, born 1836, Royal Bengal Engineers, K.C.M.G. and C.S.I., author of a standard work on 'The Irrigation of Southern Europe' (published in 1868), and now at the head of the Public Works Department, Egypt.

Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff married, first, Lucy (who died in August 1874), daughter of Captain Edward Sturge, by whom he had a daughter, Violet. He married, secondly, Margaret (also deceased), daughter of Edmund Sturge, and widow of Lewis Sturge of the Inner Temple, by whom he had one son and two daughters.

7. Charles, born in 1839, and died unmarried in 1858.

Mr Robert Scott-Moncrieff's four daughters were—

1st, Mary-Anne, born in 1820.

2d, Elizabeth (who died in 1848), married to Captain Robert Christie, of the 5th Bengal Light Cavalry (in which regiment he was severely wounded at the battle of Chillianwallah), afterwards of Durie, county Fife.

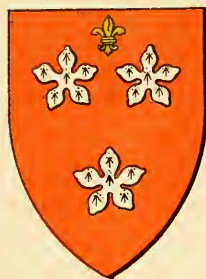
3d, Susan, married to Andrew-Halliday Douglas, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., and died in 1852.

4th, Joanna, married to General John-Archibald Ballard of the Royal Engineers, C.B., LL.D. mint-master at Bombay.¹

¹ The following notice of this gallant officer (who died near the Pass of Thermopylæ, 1st April 1880) appeared in the 'Homeward Mail' of January 1866. General Ballard's intimate connection with the affair of Silistria was not generally known at the time of its occurrence,

as he then acted in the capacity of 'Times' correspondent, and modestly refrained from alluding to his own services :—

"Colonel Ballard, mint-master, Bombay, is going to Calcutta, and is to act as master of the mint there during Colonel Hyde's absence. The



Mr Scott - Moncrieff married, secondly, in 1851, Mary - Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Hamilton, Esq., Receiver-General of the Customs, by whom he had two daughters—Jane - Anne, who died in infancy, and Elizabeth - Mary, married to the Rev. James Robertson, D.D., minister of Whittinghame. Two years after his death—towards the end of the year 1871—a handsome quarto volume was published by Mr Andrew Elliot of Edinburgh, entitled ‘The Scottish Bar Fifty Years ago,’ and embracing a series of spirited

sketches of Parliament House celebrities, executed by Mr Scott-Moncrieff between the years 1816 and 1820. These sketches include portraits of Sir Walter Scott, and of some of his most distinguished legal contemporaries, — among the rest, John Clerk (Lord Eldin), Francis Jeffrey, Henry Cockburn, Robert Forsyth, John Wilson (“Christopher North”), John - Gibson Lockhart, Andrew Skene, and Patrick Robertson. The anonymous preface to this interesting volume is from the pen of Mr Scott-Moncrieff’s eldest daughter, who mentions that the profits of the publication (which was intended to have been brought out at the time of the Scott centenary) were to be given to Mrs Kemp, the widow of the lamented architect of the Edinburgh Scott Monument. The accompanying notices were contributed by the late George Burnett, advocate, Lyon King of Arms.

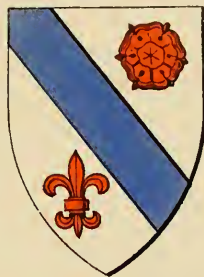
Mr Scott-Moncrieff died 18th June 1869, when he was succeeded by his eldest son—

‘Englishman’ says: ‘*Cateris paribus*, we presume his antecedents during the Crimean war, which gave him rapid promotion and many decorations, have to a considerable degree influenced Government in their choice, to the exclusion of the many applicants on this side of India. It may not, perhaps, be generally known at this remote date, and when the war produced so many heroes, that it was at Silistria he first attracted the attention of Europe by his great daring, and that it was owing to his presence in the fortified city that the Russians had to raise the siege. The event was one upon which the course of his-

tory was destined to hinge, for this miscarriage at Silistria put an end at once to all schemes for the invasion of the Sultan’s dominions in Europe.’ After alluding to the lamented Major Nasmyth’s connection with the same siege, Kinglake states that ‘meanwhile Lieutenant Ballard, of the Indian army, coming thither of his own free will, had thrown himself into the besieged town; and whenever the enemy stirred, there was always at least one English lad in the Arab zabia directing the counsels of the garrison, repressing the thought of surrender, and keeping the men in good heart.’”

VI. The Rev. WILLIAM SCOTT-MONCRIEFF of Fossaway, born 17th April 1825. Educated at the High School and University of Edinburgh, he afterwards went to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated with mathematical honours, B.A. (1848) and M.A. (1852). Mr Scott-Moncrieff, who is in holy orders of the Church of England, was Incumbent of St Simon's, Upper Chelsea, 1859-64; Vicar of St Paul's, Tiverton, and Rural Dean, 1864-69; one of the ministers of St Thomas's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh, 1870-75; and is now a Canon of Durham Cathedral, and Vicar of Christ Church, Sunderland. He married, in 1850, Hannah, daughter of Robert Overton, Esq., of Leicester, by whom he had (besides a daughter, Susan-Mary, married to the Rev. Herbert Lunn) three sons—

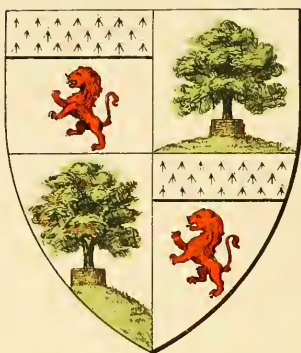
1. Robert, died *s. p.*
2. William, Captain in the Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regiment, married Alice, daughter of John Casels, Esq., of Bombay, by whom he has two sons, Robert and William.
3. Rev. Charles-Elliot, married Maud, daughter of the Rev. — Blackett.



Among other family portraits in the possession of Canon Scott-Moncrieff are those of Sir Hugh Cuninghame of Bonnington, Provost of Edinburgh in 1730, by *Medina*; William Hogg, merchant and banker in Edinburgh, and Jean Stewart of Dunearn, his second wife, copied from the originals by *Allan Ramsay* (now the property of John Gibson, Esq., W.S.); and Robert Scott-Moncrieff of Newhalls, by *Racburn*.

He also possesses the original Solemn League and Covenant, signed by Alexander Moncrieff, minister of Scoonie, and his parishioners, and the holograph roll of the Scottish Parliament of 1688, written by David Moncrieff, Clerk to the Privy Council.

Arms—Quarterly, first and fourth argent, a pheon azure between three lions' heads erased gules, langued of the second, for Scott; second and third argent, a lion rampant gules and a chief ermine, within a bordure engrailed azure, for Moncrieff. *Crest*—Three stalks of wheat growing out of the ground, proper. *Motto*—Inde Spes. Matriculated 25th July 1771.



THE WELLWOOD-MONCREIFFS OF TULLIBOLE.¹



WILLIAM MONCREIFF, younger of that Ilk, who died during the lifetime of his father in the year 1570, had by his wife Jean, daughter of Laurence, third Lord Oliphant, (besides three daughters), seven sons, of whom the *second* according to Playfair, and the *fifth* according to the Culfargie Tree and Martin's MS., was—

I. ARCHIBALD MONCREIFF of Balgony, minister of Abernethy. While in the Tree nothing is said about his descendants, the following statement occurs in Martin's MS. : “ Mr Archibald Moncreif, his [William's] fifth son, was minister at Abernethy. He married [Margaret] Auchinleck, daughter to Sir William Auchinleck of Balmanno. He had the lands of Balgony in that parish [Abernethy]; and his wife bore to him two sons—Mr Archibald Moncreif, who succeeded to him in the ministry at Abernethy, and Mr

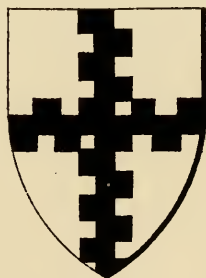
¹ When Playfair published his account of this family in 1811, they appear to have placed the surname of Moncreiff *before* that of Wellwood.

George Moncreiff, who was minister at Arngosk. Also he had a daughter, Elizabeth Moncreiff, married to Robert Demperstoun, portioner of Auchtermuchtie. Both the brethren had children, but the sister was *sans* issue."

According to Playfair, Archibald Moncreiff received his "original education" in England, and afterwards attended the University of St Andrews, where he graduated in 1580. Six years later he was appointed minister of Abernethy, and appears to have taken an active part in the disputes of the times between the Court and the Church, generally supporting the Court party. Along with his two brothers-in-law, David Murray of Balgony and Sir George Auchinleck of Balmanno, joint-commissioners from the king, he advocated the appointment of the bishops as perpetual moderators of the Church courts, in the provincial assembly held at Perth in 1607, and was accused of aspiring to a bishopric, which, however, he never obtained. In the year 1601 he was appointed prior and commendator of the priory and monastery of Elcho,¹ of which the revenue was by no means inconsiderable; and in 1611 he acquired the lands of Balgony from his sister's husband, David Murray, already referred to.

As already stated, he married Margaret, daughter of Sir William Auchinleck of Balmanno, by whom he had four sons and three daughters—

1. Archibald, who succeeded to Balgony.²
2. George, minister of Arngask, who, according to Playfair, carried on the representation of the family.
3. Andrew, an advocate at the Scottish bar, who died young, and unmarried. "Mr Andro Moncreiff," lawful son of the late Mr



¹ 'Reg. Mag. Sig.,' Lib. 42, No. 234.

² In a Sasine on Charter by Archibald Moncreiff, minister of Abernethy, dated 20th September 1620, Archibald is described as "Magistro Archibaldo Moncreiff filio suo *natu maximo*

ministro verbi Dei apud Dolor," one of the witnesses being his son George, "Magistro Georgio Moncreiff filio meo."—'New Particular Register of Sasines,' vol. iv. fol. 29.

Archibald Moncreiff of Balgony, granted an obligation for 400 merks to "Andro Bethune," at Paris, on the 23d of November 1634.¹

4. John, who served under Gustavus Adolphus, and fell in battle in Germany, unmarried. He occurs as a witness in a bond for 500 merks granted by his brother Archibald on the 15th of December 1631.²

1st daughter, Margaret, married to Arnot of Pitmedden.

2d, Sarah, married to her cousin-german, John, second son of Lockhart of Lee.

3d, Ann, married to Mr John Wood, minister of Tulliallan.

Archibald Moncreiff of Balgony demitted his parochial charge before the 26th of November 1630, and died between 29th August and 23d November 1634, aged about seventy-two.³ His widow appears to have survived him for at least twenty years. He was succeeded in the ministry of Abernethy, as well as in the estate of Balgony, by his eldest son, Archibald Moncreiff, who graduated at St Andrews in 1614, and, four years afterwards, was appointed minister of Dollar, from which he was formally translated to Abernethy in 1634. He sold the estate of Balgony to William Oliphant in 1644, was suspended in 1657, reponed by the Presbytery in 1660, and died in April 1671, aged about seventy-seven. His executor declared that he had "neither cornes, cattel, horses, nolt, sheep, insight plenishing, nor other moveable goods or geir, except j^m ij^c xxx ti. vj s. viij d. of money"⁴ (£1230, 6s. 8d.)

He married Barbara, eldest daughter of David Moncrieff of Balcaskie, by whom he had two sons and four daughters—

1. David, graduated at St Andrews in 1649, and appointed, in 1667, minister of Muckart, from which he was translated to Aberdalgie ten years afterwards. In a sasine of lands within the regality of Abernethy, dated 18th November 1661, he is described as his father's "eldest lawful son."⁵ He married Margaret, daughter of William Oliphant of Balgony, but, according to Playfair, "left no children." He died in June 1678, aged about forty-nine. His

¹ 'Gen. Reg. of Deeds,' Scott Office, vol. 503.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 518.

³ 'Fasti Ecclesiæ Scoticanæ,' ii. 623.

⁴ *Ibid.*, ii. 624.

⁵ 'Particular Register of Sasines for Perthshire,' vol. i. fol. 144.

books, utensils, etc., were estimated at j^c ti. (£100); inventar and debts, vj^c lxxv ti. xiiij s. iiij d. (£665, 13s. 4d.)—"debita excedunt bona."¹

2. William, who, according to Playfair, married and had issue, "but all his children died in their infancy. He himself lived to an extreme old age, and died in 1712."

Of Archibald Moncreiff's four daughters—

Anne married Mr William Spence, minister of Fossaway.

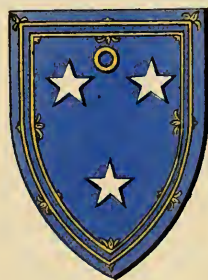
Nicholas married Mr William Moncreiff, minister of Moonzie, of whom afterwards.

Mary married, in 1678, John Gall of Balbigge.²

Margaret died unmarried.

The male issue of Archibald Moncreiff having failed, "the representation of the family," according to Playfair, "devolved on his brother"—

II. GEORGE MONCREIFF, second son of the first Archibald Moncreiff of Balgony, who appears to have graduated at St Andrews in 1620, to have been appointed minister of Arngask between 1633 and 1635, and to have died before 18th January 1665, aged about sixty-five.³ Playfair states that he married "a relative of the Murrays, Catherine, daughter of Murray of Fosterseat," by whom he had (besides four daughters—Catherine, Elizabeth, Helen, and Barbara,⁴ who all died unmarried except Elizabeth, who married Mr Robert Geddes, her father's successor in the ministry of Arngask) two sons—



1. William, his father's successor.
2. David, "of whom," says Playfair, "there are no descendants alive, although he had two sons and a daughter."

Thus far the pedigree of this branch of the family of Moncreiff is con-

¹ 'Fasti,' ii. 621.

² 'Particular Register of Sasines for Perthshire,' vol. vii. fol. 231.

³ 'Fasti,' ii. 626.

⁴ The four daughters are specified in this order in a renunciation of an annual-rent by their

brother William, "eldest son and heir of the deceased Mr George Moncreiff, minister of Arngask," in which reference is also made to Katherine Murray, George's relict, dated at Perth, 13th February 1674.—'Particular Register of Sasines for Fife and Kinross,' vol. viii. fol. 278.

firmed, in a general way, by Martin's MS. ; but, so far as we are aware, the only authority for the two subsequent links is the compiler of 'British Family Antiquity,' to whose worthlessness as a genealogist we have already referred. We have also seen that Sir Robert Douglas, in alluding to Archibald Moncreiff, minister of Abernethy, as a younger son of William Moncreiff, younger of that Ilk, and the *supposed* progenitor of Mr William Moncreiff, minister of Blackford, who claimed the baronetcy on the death of Sir Hugh Moncreiff of Tippermalloch, makes the following statement respecting that claim : "As we can find no documents to prove his succession, we cannot here deduce his descent." Nearly a century has elapsed since Sir Robert Douglas wrote, and these documents have never been produced. From the correspondence embraced in the Appendix, it will be seen that the present representative of the family of Culfargie has made an attempt—but hitherto without success—to obtain access to any papers or other evidence in the hands of the Tullibole family, the alleged representatives of Archibald Moncreiff, first of Balgony, calculated to "instruct" their pedigree as published by Playfair. A very careful search in the parochial registers and other public records having failed to satisfactorily substantiate some of the links in that pedigree, our only alternative is to print it, subject to the following criticisms.

We have already seen that Playfair's elaborate account of the Wellwood-Moncreiffs is said to be given on the authority of a manuscript account of the family of Moncreiff in the possession of Sir Henry Wellwood-Moncreiff (grandfather of the present Lord Moncreiff), written upwards of a hundred years ago—*i.e.*, prior to 1711. The mysterious author of the manuscript is vaguely described as "one whose *certain knowledge* reached back to about the middle of the seventeenth century." It may be fairly presumed that whoever could vouch for the author's "certain knowledge" must have been acquainted with his *name* ; but, unfortunately, it has not been preserved.¹ Playfair further assures us that, "in all essential particulars," his notice "agrees with the documents on record ; and *supplies chasms* with regard to facts of less importance." The whole of this extra-

¹ See letter to the author from the Rev. Dr Hew Scott, *infra*, page 170.

ordinary statement is open to very grave suspicion, more especially when considered in connection with the declared scepticism of Sir Robert Douglas. The owner of the manuscript was an interested party; the name of the author is unknown; the only specified authority for his statements is his "certain knowledge," reaching back to about the middle of the seventeenth century; and Playfair coolly acknowledges that, while his notice "agrees with the documents on record in all essential particulars," it "supplies chasms with regard to facts of less importance." Which, pray, are the "chasms," and which the portions agreeing with recorded documents? A "chasm" in a pedigree is a very awkward circumstance, and is generally regarded as fatal—a chain with a beginning and end, but without a middle; but not so seems to think the "magnificent" compiler of 'British Family Antiquity,' who is equal to the emergency, and provides the "missing links." More recent dabblers in the "art of pedigree-making" are not quite so honest as the ingenuous William Playfair, inasmuch as while they do not hesitate to supply any number of chasms, they take very good care not to acknowledge the deliberate operation.

Quite in keeping with the general statement respecting his authority are some of Playfair's more special observations, to a few of which we have already referred. Thus, his patronising note regarding the Moncreiffs of Culfargie is as ludicrous as it is irrelevant; and, moreover, the pedigree which he condescends to give them is erroneous in some important particulars. Again, in his detailed account of the supposed descendants of Archibald Moncreiff of Balgony, he more than once extinguishes whole families in a single line, and the number of brothers and sisters who die young or without issue is positively startling. In referring to the family of Tippermalloch, he has the audacity to assert that "some genealogists"—an obvious allusion to Sir Robert Douglas—have invented progenitors in order "to serve an hypothesis"; and whatever may be said against Sir Robert's version of the Tippermalloch descent, it is surely not a little inconsistent in the man who trusts to the "certain knowledge" of mysterious authors, and who complacently supplies "chasms" with regard to facts of minor importance, to make so serious a charge against an eminent genealogist some fifteen years after his death. "Those who live

in glass houses"—everybody knows the rest. Lastly, Playfair's vague and off-hand announcement regarding the delivery of the family papers, on the death of the fourth and sixth Baronets respectively, to their supposed successors in the title, is another specimen of his free-and-easy "magnificence" as a genealogist.

We now return to the pedigree in 'British Family Antiquity,' according to which the successor of George Moncreiff, minister of Arngask, was his eldest son—

III. WILLIAM MONCREIFF, who appears to have graduated at St



Andrews in 1603, to have been appointed minister of Moonzie in 1685, and to have died a lunatic on the 4th of September 1711, aged about 68.¹ He is said to have been twice married—first, to his cousin-german, Nicholas, second daughter of his uncle Archibald Moncreiff, minister of Abernethy, by whom he had (besides a daughter, Mary, married in 1710 to Mr Andrew Ure, minister of Fossaway) two sons—

1. Archibald.
2. David, a physician, who died young and unmarried.

His second wife was Euphemia,² sister of Philip Alexander, by whom he had a son, William, and two daughters, "who all died without issue."



A discharge for stipend, granted in 1667 by Archibald Moncreiff, minister of Abernethy, to John Moncreiff of Culfargie, is witnessed by Archibald's "son-in-law," William Moncreiff, who is not, however, otherwise designed;³ but it is somewhat singular that William Moncreiff's name does not appear in the list of ministers of Moonzie in the 'New Statistical Account of Scotland.'

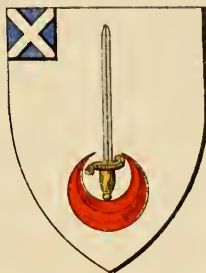
¹ 'Fasti,' ii. 505. Playfair states that he died "about 1690," or twenty-one years earlier.

² She died at Edinburgh in 1715.

³ Culfargie Writs.

The minister of Moonzie is *said* to have been succeeded by his eldest son—

IV. ARCHIBALD MONCREIFF, who appears to have graduated at St Andrews in 1691, to have been appointed minister of Blackford six years later, and to have died in August 1739, at about the same age as his father.¹ He married Catharine, eldest daughter of John Halliday of Tullibole, county Kinross, by whom he had sixteen children, of whom six sons and two daughters survived him—viz.:



1. William.
2. John, "a man of letters," and the author of several publications, who died unmarried at an early age in 1761.
3. Robert, a clergyman of the Church of England, who also died unmarried in 1767.
4. Mungo, who married Jean Morley, an Irish lady, by whom he had two sons—(1) Robert; (2) John, who was bred to the sea, and died unmarried at Jamaica, a victim to the climate, in 1768.
5. Charles, died young.
6. Alexander, who died at the age of twenty-two, during a voyage to India.

Of the two daughters, Margaret married John Moncrieff of Tippermalloch, minister of Rhynd (son of William Moncrieff, minister of Methven), and Helen died unmarried in 1772.

The minister of Blackford was represented by his eldest son—

V. WILLIAM MONCREIFF, who graduated at Glasgow in 1724, and was appointed assistant and successor to his father in the ministry of Blackford in 1738. On the death, without issue, in 1744, of Sir Hugh Moncrieff of Tippermalloch, sixth baronet of the creation of 1626, the title appears to have "gone a-begging," and, as we have already seen, was erroneously

¹ 'Fasti,' ii. 751, and 'Commissariat Records of Dunblane,' vol. xix. fol. 429.

assigned by Sir Robert Douglas to Sir William Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe, fourth Baronet of the later creation of 1685. On the other hand, Playfair states that, "on the death of Sir James (fourth Baronet), such of the family papers as were in his hands had been delivered by his direction to Sir John (of Tippermalloch); and when Sir Hugh (Sir John's son) died, they were by his orders delivered to Sir William Moncreiff, minister of Blackford, to whom the succession to the title then devolved, as the male representative of Mr Archibald Moncreiff of Balgony, the second son of William Moncreiff and Jean Oliphant, and the uncle of the first Baronet." Even if Playfair's statement regarding the family papers is correct, it does not follow that the minister of Blackford was the lawful heir to the baronetcy; and it is not a little curious that, at least four years after Sir Hugh's death in 1744, he does not appear to have assumed the title. The following entry relative to the baptism of his sister's child occurs in the Parochial Register of Rhynd: "Katharine, daughter to Mr John Moncreiff, minister of Rind, and Margaret Moncreiff, was baptized by *Mr* William Moncreiff, minister of the Gospel at Blackford, March 22d, 1748."

No doubt, in a subsequent entry (October 17, 1749) in the same register relative to a son of the same parents, he is described as "*Sir* William Moncreiff"; but, oddly enough, in a still later entry (February 5, 1754), he again returns to the designation of "*Mr* William Moncreiff." In the register pertaining to his own parish (Blackford), he is continuously described as "*Sir* William" from 1749, in which year we find an entry relative to his marriage; and in the entry of his son Robert's baptism in 1753, he attains a dignity which must shock the susceptibilities of all "true-blue" Presbyterians, being there actually described as "the Right Reverend Sir William Moncreiff, Baronet"!¹ But what of the Right

¹ The following statement appears in the chapter entitled "Chaos," appended to Foster's 'Peerage and Baronetage for 1881': "Moncreiff, Rev. (Sir) Henry Wellwood, D.D., great-grandson of Rev. (Sir) William Moncreiff, minister of Blackford, who assumed (after 1744), without service or proof of pedigree, the N.S. Baronetcy conferred upon Sir John Moncreiff of Moncreiff, 22d April 1626, with remainder to his heirs-male.

The minister of Blackford was fourth in descent from Archibald, minister of Abernethy, Perthshire, who was of the Court of High Commission, 1619, and who is said to have been documented brother-german of William, father of the first Baronet. . . . The pedigree in Douglas's 'Baronage' only mentions David as a brother of William, father of the first Baronet, though a note is appended that he is said to have had another brother,

Reverend gentleman's *service* to the vacant Baronetcy? Possibly no such formal procedure ever took place; but even if it were otherwise, it unfortunately does not by any means follow that his jury "served him right"! What says the late Mr W. B. D. D. Turnbull, advocate—a highly competent authority in all matters connected with pedigree? Speaking of the Scottish service as it existed till within the last few years, he says:—

"This legal nuisance, the source of numerous evils, is the improper system of what is denominated 'services' in Scotland, by means of which any person—no matter of what nation or whoever he may be—can obtain himself declared by a jury of twelve individuals, the more ignorant the better, heir to any one whom he may choose to claim as his ancestor, however distinguished the title or valuable the property depending upon such claim. The manner in which these mockeries of justice, or rather *legalised impositions*, are set about, is notorious. A man imagines—or the suggestion is put in his head by one of those unprincipled fellows called 'genealogists'—that he represents, in some undefined shape or other, a Baronet or Peer (the former is the hack cheat), whose dignity, in nine cases out of ten, is not dormant, but extinct; and immediately, by dint of extracts from old Red-Books, a few loose memoranda from vague records, and sturdy assumptions, utterly destitute of evidence but advanced with the persevering impudence of an attorney, the Magi who are convoked (like the banqueters in the parable, from the highways and lanes) find and declare the worthy claimant to be the representative of a family of which he possesses not in his veins one drop of the blood, or with which he has the remotest connection, or, it may be, with even the country to which it belongs. There is no one, perhaps, in a position to oppose; the law has provided no check for such practices, and incalculable injury is daily done both to private parties and to the public at large."¹

In a subsequent page, Mr Turnbull specifies three or four *soi-disant*

Archibald, minister of Abernethy; while the pedigree in Playfair's 'Baronetage' gives six brothers and four sisters, but unaccompanied by any evidence to prove that Archibald was the next brother of William, father of the first Baronet."

In the pedigree given in Foster's 'Baronetage,' it is stated that "William Moncreiff of Moncreiff had a charter, etc., and married Jean, daughter of Lawrence Lord Oliphant, and had, with other issue, two sons—

"(1.) William, of whom presently.

"(2.) Archibald of Balgony, minister of Abernethy, Perthshire, about 1580, married Margaret, sister of Sir George Auchinleck of Balmanno (Lord of Session, 1626), and had issue. (This on the authority of Playfair's 'Scotch Baronetage,' p. 89; see also Douglas's 'Baronage,' p. 475, where the editor states that he is unable to affiliate this Archibald.) His great-great-grandson, Sir William, succeeded as seventh Baronet."

¹ 'British American Association and Nova Scotia Baronets' (1846), Introduction, p. xxxii.

Baronets of Nova Scotia as not having the very remotest right to the titles which they have unscrupulously assumed, adding that "we might, if we had space, disqualify, at the very least, one-third of these Nova Scotia puppets."

A more recent writer makes the following sensible remarks on titular assumptions :—

"A fashionable newspaper, which prides itself on its dilettante genealogical information, has recently drawn the attention of its readers to the provisions of a Royal Warrant, bearing date 3d December 1783,¹ and intended to compel every holder of the title of Baronet to prove his right to that distinction in the College of Arms, before accepting, as a Baronet, an appointment in any of the public services. Unfortunately for the argument of this ingenious writer, his statement betrays a lamentable ignorance of the real facts of the case, for a subsequent warrant had, within two years, completely suspended the provisions he refers to, and no further action has been taken.² Thus, as matters now stand, there is no tribunal authorised to decide upon such claims as those which are collected under the supplemental section entitled 'Chaos' in Foster's 'Baronetage.'

The assumption of the title of Baronet has now become so common that it calls for more serious attention than may at first sight seem necessary. Sir William Fraser has done good service on more than one occasion by calling the attention of Parliament to this increasing scandal; but it is probable that few, if any, were

¹ From the two following notes, which were copied by the author, about twenty years ago, from the originals in the possession of the late Dr David Laing of the Signet Library, it would appear that the Tullibole family were making some genealogical or heraldic inquiries in 1783-84. The individual to whom they are addressed was Mr James Cumming, "Custodier of Archives" in the Lyon Office.

"Sir H. Moncreiff offers compts. to Mr Cumming, and will call on Mr Cumming this forenoon about eleven o'clock, if Mr C. will then be at home. Or if that hour shall not be convenient, Sir H. begs that Mr Cumming will mention any other hour before two o'clock that wou'd answer him.

Thursday Morn'g., 9 o'clock, 11th Decr. 83."

"DR. SIR,—As I have not heard from you, I suppose you have not yet got time to do anything to the papers I left with you. I will call on you,

however, to-morrow evening at seven o'clock, if that hour will be convenient for you. I do not wish you to do the thing till it is quite convenient for you. But as there was a little part of it which you thought I cou'd get done more easily than you, I will call on you to-morrow and get your directions about it.—I am, dr. sir, your obliged & obedt. servt., H. MONCREIFF WELLWOOD.

WEST KIRK, *Thursday Ev'g., 26th Feb. 84.*
To Mr CUMMING."

² The author is informed by Sir John Don-Wauchope that when Mr Alexander Maconochie (afterwards Lord Meadowbank) was Lord Advocate, 1816-19, the Government sent instructions to the Crown Agent in Edinburgh to make a special inquiry as to the right of certain baronets—including Moncreiff of 1626—to the titles which they held; but the inquiry was stopped when it was found that a majority of the "suspected" were supporters of the Government.

aware, till the appearance of Mr Foster's 'Chaos,' of the great extent to which the practice had spread. Society is powerless in the matter. It may well hesitate to take the initiative in refuting a discredited title, when such time-honoured authorities as Ulster King-of-Arms and Mr Edward Walford, M.A., together with the editors of kindred works, practically—by publication, and therefore apparently by confirmation—support the *soi-disant* Baronets in their pretensions."¹

"Sir" William Moncreiff, seventh Baronet *de facto*, married, in 1749, Catharine, eldest daughter of Robert Wellwood of Garvock, by whom (besides one daughter, Susan, married to the Rev. William Paul, one of the ministers of St Cuthbert's parish, Edinburgh) he had six sons—

1. Henry, his successor.
2. Archibald, born 1751, merchant in Baltimore, who died unmarried in 1803.
3. Robert, born 1753, who married and died early, leaving an only son, a Colonel in the East India Company's service, who died unmarried. From a statement in Kay's 'Portraits' (ii. 230), it would appear that Robert Moncreiff was at one time a Baptist preacher in Glasgow.
4. John, born 1754, apothecary in Edinburgh, who also married, and died in 1829, leaving an only son, who died unmarried.
5. William, born 1757, an officer in the Bengal Establishment, who died in 1795, leaving an only daughter, Mary, who married James-Corbet Porterfield, Esq.
6. George, born 1758, who died while attending the University of Glasgow.



"Sir" William died 9th December 1767, aged 61, when he was succeeded by his eldest son—

VI. Sir HENRY MONCREIFF-WELLWOOD (see p. 150), as eighth Baronet. Born 26th January 1750, he studied at the University of Glasgow, but not having completed his course at the time of his father's death, the patron, presbytery, and parishioners delayed supplying the vacant incum-

¹ 'Collectanea Genealogica,' Part i. p. 3, June 1881.

bency of Blackford further than by means of a temporary assistant, until he obtained a licence. Having gone through all the prescribed trials, he was licensed by the Presbytery 8th May 1771, and ordained, on the 15th August of the same year, as minister of the parish of Blackford, which thus became a sort of "family living."

Sir Henry was translated to the first charge of the large and important parish of St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, in 1775, and five years afterwards he was proposed for the Chair of the General Assembly, in opposition to the Rev. Dr Spens, Professor of Divinity in the University of St Andrews, when he was defeated by a majority of 112 to 106. He gradually became a powerful opponent to the "Moderate" party, which, under the leadership of Principal Robertson the historian, had nearly obtained entire supremacy in the Assembly. He was elected Moderator of the General Assembly on the 19th of May 1785, and received the degree of D.D. from the University of Glasgow in the course of the following month. In 1784 he was appointed (joint) collector of the Ministers' Widows' Fund, an office which he held for forty-three years, and for which "he was qualified not merely by his fidelity and diligence, but also by a degree of native sagacity and sound judgment which has been but rarely exemplified, and which proved of inestimable importance in the management of their concerns." In January 1785 he was appointed one of the chaplains to the Prince of Wales; but in 1793 he declined to accept the office of chaplain in ordinary to the King, which, by his request, was conferred on his colleague and brother-in-law, the Rev. William Paul. Sir Henry was one of the original members who, in 1790, formed the Society for Benefiting the Sons of the Clergy; and throughout his life he was distinguished as a practical and zealous philanthropist.¹

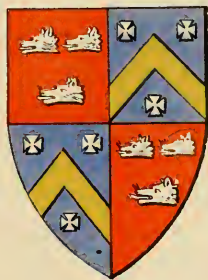
There are several references to Sir Henry (or Harry) Moncreiff in Lord Cockburn's interesting 'Journal,' published in 1874. Speaking of the position of the Church of Scotland in 1841, the genial lawyer speculates on the probable conduct of the departed leaders, including Hill, Inglis, Thomson, and Sir Harry. Of the last of these he says: "*The spiritual independence of*

¹ Scott's 'Fasti,' i. 122.

the Church he would have laid his head upon the block rather than abandon ; and, leaving the law to deal with all the temporalities of benefices as it chose, he would have deemed this independence at an end if the Court of Session could annul the Church's sentences of suspension or deposition." A few years later (1846) Cockburn imagines a good Scotch dialogue, in Elysium, between Dr John Thomson and his friend John Allen, joined by Baron Hume, Lord Melville, Lord Braxfield, Sir James Gibson-Craig, and Sir Harry, in which he describes Moncreiff as "the best of our old Church," and as one that "would certainly lament that he did not live to avert or to join the Free." Contrasting Sir Harry and Principal Robertson with Chalmers, the journalist says that their ambition did not rise above the management of their "little Church parties," and that only by acting on Church courts ; while Chalmers "addressed himself, on higher objects, to the whole Scotch mind." Again, he says of Chalmers that "he was a good suppressor—not in the style of Sir Harry, who trampled upon his followers, when they were disposed to be foolish, as if they had been so many vermin, but by weight of authority, and the difficulty of doing without him."

As a preacher Sir Henry was "strong and masculine" in his eloquence, and towards the close of his life "there was often a tenderness in his modes of expression, as well as in the accents of his voice, which came home to the heart with the energy of pathos itself."¹

Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood married, in 1772, his cousin Susan-Robertson (who died in 1826), eldest daughter of James Robertson-Barclay of Keavil, writer to the signet, by whom (besides two daughters, Isabella, married to Sir John Stoddart, Chief-Justice, and judge of the Admiralty Court at Malta, and Catharine, who died unmarried²) he had five sons—



¹ Kay's 'Portraits,' ii. 268. The same work contains a portrait of Sir Henry, painted in 1793.

² In her interesting 'Recollections,' Mrs Somerville mentions that she had one of Sir Henry's

daughters as a companion in her lessons at the pastry-cook's, adding that Miss Moncreiff was "older than I, pretty, pleasing, and one of the belles of the day." Speaking of Sunday-

1. William, LL.D., his Majesty's Advocate at Malta, where he died unmarried in 1813.
2. James, his father's successor.
3. Henry, clerk to the signet, married to Charlotte, only daughter of Hugh Paterson Rollo of Bannockburn, *s. p.*
4. George, merchant in Edinburgh, married Mary-Fitchett Johnson of Wroxall Cottage, Isle of Wight, and died in 1822, leaving two daughters, Susan and Georgiana.
5. Archibald, assistant in the office for arranging the index to the journals of the House of Lords.

The estate of Tullibole,¹ which belonged to the family of Sir Henry's paternal grandmother, was brought to judicial sale in 1749, when it was purchased by Henry Wellwood of Garvock, the elder brother of Robert, whose daughter married Sir William Moncreiff (Sir Henry's father). Three years after the purchase he conveyed the estate to his grand-nephew, Sir Henry Moncreiff—then an infant of two years of age—on condition that he should bear the name and arms of *Wellwood*, and that, in memory of Catharine Denham, the mother of Henry Wellwood, the estate should henceforth be described as "Denham's Tullibole."²

Besides contributing (?) the account of the family of Moncreiff-Wellwood to Playfair's 'British Baronetage' in the year 1811, Sir Henry was the author of the following publications:—

Seven Single Sermons. Edinburgh. 1777-1812. 8vo.

Sketch of a Plan for augmenting the Living of the Ministers of the Church of Scotland. Edinburgh. 1788. 4to.

evening suppers in Edinburgh, about the same period, she says: "In no family were these suppers more agreeable or cheerful than in that of Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, minister of the West Kirk. There were always a few of the friends of Sir Henry and Lady Moncreiff present, and we were invited occasionally. There was a substantial hot supper of roasted fowls, game, or lamb, and afterwards a lively, animated conversation on a variety of subjects, without a shade of austerity, though Sir Henry was esteemed an

orthodox preacher."—"Personal Recollections of Mary Somerville," pp. 52, 91. (Sir Henry was the officiating clergyman at Mrs Somerville's second marriage in 1812.—*Ibid.*, p. 88.)

¹ The word Tullibole is of Gaelic origin, and is said to signify "the poet's hill." The old castle of Tullibole was erected in the year 1608.—'New Statistical Account of Scotland,' x. 1016, 1020.

² Sir Henry got a Crown charter of the lands of Tullibole in the year 1772, shortly after reaching majority.

- A Letter to the Contributors to the Fund for Ministers' Widows. Edinburgh. 1797. 8vo.
 Memorial to the Trustees for managing the Ministers' Widows' Fund. Edinburgh. 1800. 8vo.
 Remarks on Principal Hill's Speech in the General Assembly. Edinburgh. 1807. 8vo.
 Discourses on the Evidence of the Jewish and Christian Revelation. Edinburgh. 1815. 8vo.
 Account of the Life and Writings of John Erskine, D.D. Edinburgh. 1818. 8vo.
 Sermons, 3 vols. Edinburgh. 1805-31. 8vo.

He also prepared for the press 'Discourses,' by John Erskine, D.D., vol. ii.—Edinburgh, 1804, 8vo; edited Dr Henry's 'History of Great Britain,' vol. vi., prefixing a Life of the Author—London, 1793, 4to; and contributed a Life of the Rev. Alexander Murray, D.D., to the 'History of European Languages'—Edinburgh, 1823, 8vo.¹

Sir Henry died 9th August 1827, in the seventy-eighth year of his age and fifty-sixth of his ministry. As already indicated, he was distinguished not less for his benevolent disposition and personal worth than for his eloquence as a preacher, his faithful discharge of ministerial duty, and his zealous devotion to the business of the Church of Scotland in her several judicatories. His funeral sermon was preached by Dr Andrew Thomson of St George's, Edinburgh, and afterwards published. The following extract bears testimony to his many eminent qualifications:—

"He stood forth from among his contemporaries confessedly pre-eminent in strength of personal and social character. There was a magnanimity in his modes of thinking and of acting, which was as evident to the eye of observation as were the lineaments of his face and the dignity of his gait. His great and primary distinction was a clear, profound, and powerful understanding, which spurned from it all trifles, and advanced to the decision it was to give with unhesitating promptitude and determined firmness. Those who knew him best can best give witness how faithfully and habitually he embodied his knowledge and his principles, and his hopes as a Christian, into his life and deportment, his daily walk and conversation; how tenderly he cared for the fatherless and the widow that were so often committed to his charge; how active and assiduous he was in helping forward

¹ Scott's 'Fasti,' i. 123.

deserving youth, in giving counsel and aid to the many who had recourse to him in their difficulties, and in doing good to all his brethren, with unaffected kindness, as he had opportunity; how patient and resigned amidst the severest bereavements (and of these he experienced not a few) with which Providence can visit the children of mortality; how fervent in his devotions and prayers; how diligent in his study of the sacred volume, from which he drew all his religious opinions; how correct and dignified in the whole of his personal demeanour; how engaging in the lighter play as well as in the graver exercise of his social affections; and how ready, amidst all the attainments he had made, and all the honour he had received from men, to acknowledge the inadequacy of his services, and the sinfulness and imperfection that mingled in all his doings, and still to betake himself to the blood of sprinkling and the finished work of the Messiah, as all his refuge and as all his hope."

At the request of the General Assembly, a character of Sir Henry was drawn up by the Rev. Dr Macgill, Professor of Divinity in the University of Glasgow, and ordered to be inserted in the records of the Court.

On the death of Sir Henry in August 1827, he was succeeded by his second and eldest surviving son—

VII. Sir JAMES WELLWOOD-MONCREIFF,¹ as ninth Baronet. He was born 13th September 1776, and completed his education at Oxford. Called to the Scottish Bar in 1799, he rapidly attained great distinction in his profession, which then embraced not a few remarkable men—including John Clerk, George Cranstoun, Henry Cockburn, and Francis Jeffrey. He was appointed Sheriff of Clackmannan and Kinross in 1807, and chosen Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, in succession to Cranstoun, in 1826. In 1817 he was one of the counsel for Andrew M'Kinlay, a Glasgow weaver, originally arrested on a charge of high treason, but ultimately indicted for having administered an unlawful oath, when the jury returned a verdict of "not proven."²

On the 16th of December 1820, Moncreiff presided at a political meeting in Edinburgh, held in a large building called the "Pantheon," then used as a circus, and capable of accommodating upwards of three thousand people.

¹ From this date the two surnames appear to have been transposed.

² Omond's 'Lord Advocates of Scotland,' ii. 245 *et seq.*

“Twenty-five years before, in that place, James Moncreiff, then a boy of sixteen, had held a candle while Henry Erskine was declaiming against the measures of the Pitt Government. He was now in the chair. The crowd, unused to public meetings, was restless and noisy; but Mr Moncreiff’s strong voice enabled him to gain a hearing, when he rose to explain the objects of the meeting. He declared that to him and his friends it would be more agreeable to spend their time in the enjoyment of private and domestic society than in discussing political questions; but, he said, ‘there are times when it becomes absolutely necessary to sacrifice our private habits and private feelings, if we would procure for ourselves and our children those blessings of freedom which our fathers have transmitted to us, and, above all things, the blessings of regular government by a king who, through his Ministers, governs by the laws of a well-ordered constitution.’ He counselled moderation, decorum, and propriety, and explained that the meeting had been called to implore the king to dismiss the Ministry and reassemble Parliament, in order that measures might be taken to allay the general discontent of the country.”¹

According to the ‘Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle,’ “the meeting was an extremely disorderly one, and, on some occasions, the chairman in vain exerted his lungs, and Mr Jeffrey his pantomimic powers, to restore quiet.”

Towards the end of the year 1828, Moncreiff, when Dean of Faculty, acted as one of the counsel for the defence in the trial of the notorious William Burke and Helen M’Dougal for murder—his juniors being Patrick Robertson (afterwards Lord Robertson), Duncan M’Neill (afterwards Lord Colonsay), and David Milne (afterwards Mr Milne-Home). “Moncreiff made a speech of extraordinary ability, in which he refused to defend the character of Burke. ‘I have,’ he said to the jury, ‘too much respect for your understanding and my own profession to do so.’ His argument was that, so far as the independent evidence went, the murder *might* have been committed by Hare, ‘that cold-blooded, acknowledged villain’ (who, after having been arrested with the prisoners, had been accepted as an informer), and that Burke could not be safely condemned on evidence which was inconclusive, if the informer’s testimony was rejected.”² As is well known, Burke closed his infamous career on the scaffold.

In June 1829 Moncreiff was raised to the bench, on the death of Lord Alloway; and, “to the honour of the Tory party,” Jeffrey was unanimously appointed his successor in the office of Dean of the Faculty of Advocates.³

¹ Omond’s ‘Lord Advocates of Scotland,’ ii. 265.

² *Ibid.*, p. 293.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 305.

Sir James Moncreiff assumed the title of Lord Moncreiff, and was at the same time appointed a Lord of Justiciary. His judgments in the Court of Session were distinguished by great learning and sagacity; while in the criminal court he was remarkable for his dispassionate mode of weighing evidence, and, on important occasions, for the impressive character of his charges to the jury. In 1832 he was examined by a select committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the origin and exercise of church patronage in Scotland, on which occasion his evidence was characterised by its fulness and lucidity, and a thorough knowledge of the subject.

Two years later (1834) he proposed the resolution which was carried in the General Assembly respecting the popular veto on Patronage;¹ but the "Immoderates" went beyond the veto, "which they openly declaimed against as a restraint on the people, and acted practically on the principle that patronage ought to be abolished. It was gratifying that Lord Moncreiff resisted this folly so far as he could. He had to quarrel and almost to break with his party in opposing it—a severe penalty for this true man, the exaction of which is no slight proof of their extravagance."² In referring to the celebrated Auchterarder case, which occupied the attention of the Court of Session in 1838, Cockburn pronounces the opinion of Lord Mackenzie to have been the best of the majority of the judges, while "the best on the opposite side was Moncreiff's."³ Speaking of the General Assembly of 1839, he says: "Lord Moncreiff was not a member. He could not desert his party; nor could he lead it. He had too much moderation and sense; so he withdrew, never, I hope, to return. They never had such a lay member."⁴

The following is Cockburn's estimate of his distinguished colleague: "During the twenty-one years Moncreiff was on the civil and criminal benches, he performed all his duties admirably. Law-learning and law-reasoning, industry, honesty, and high-minded purity, could do no more for any judge. For many years we have gone circuits together, and I have been privy to all his private official feelings and views; and after forty

¹ Cockburn's 'Journal,' i. 60.

² *Ibid.* p. 96.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 169.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 231.

years of unbroken friendship, it is a pleasure to record my love of the man, and my admiration of his character."¹

Lord Moncreiff married, in 1808, Ann, daughter of Captain George Robertson, R.N., eldest son of Dr William Robertson, co. Surrey, of an ancient Scottish family, and by her (who died 28th May 1843) had (besides three daughters, Elizabeth, Louisa-Anne, who died in 1877, and Catherine-Mary) five sons—

1. Henry, his successor.
2. James, of whom afterwards.
3. William, born 28th September 1813, accountant of the Court of Session (which office he resigned in 1889), married, in 1860, Susan-Ballantine, youngest daughter of J. Dykes Ballantine-Dykes, Esq. of Dovenby Hall, Cumberland.
4. George-Robertson, M.A., born 29th January 1817, a clergyman of the Church of England, and one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, 1850-84, married, in 1858, Martha, second surviving daughter of William Holmes of Tattenhall, Cheshire.
5. Thomas, of Shanghai, born 5th October 1821, and died at Singapore 22d December 1863.

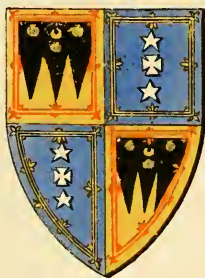
Sir James Wellwood - Moncreiff (Lord Moncreiff) died 30th April 1851, in the seventy-fifth year of his age, when he was succeeded by his eldest son—

VIII.* The Rev. Sir HENRY WELLWOOD-MONCREIFF, as tenth Baronet. Born 12th May 1809, he was educated at the Universities of Glasgow and Oxford, at the latter of which he enjoyed the Snell foundation at Balliol College, where he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He was ordained to the



¹ Cockburn's 'Journal,' ii. 264.

ministry of the Church of Scotland in 1835, and shortly afterwards appointed to the parish of Baldernock, from which he was translated to East Kilbride in October 1837. He joined the Free Church at the Disruption in 1843, and was appointed minister of Free St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, in 1852. Three years afterwards he was elected to the office of joint Principal Clerk to the Free General Assembly, and in 1860 he received the degree of D.D. from the University of Glasgow.¹ On the



death of Professor Robertson in 1861, he was appointed Secretary to her Majesty's sole and only master printers for Scotland.

Sir Henry married, first, 8th March 1838, Alexina-Mary (daughter of George Bell, Esq., of Edinburgh),² who died 12th April 1874; and secondly, 19th August 1875, Lucretia (youngest daughter of Andrew Murray, Esq. of Murrays-hall, co. Perth, and Sheriff of Aberdeenshire), who died 10th September 1885.

He was the author of the following publications :—

A Letter to Lord Melbourne. Edinburgh. 1840. 8vo.

Letter to the Session and Congregation of East Kilbride regarding the late Convocation of Ministers. Edinburgh. 8vo.

The Present Aspects of the Cardross Case. A Speech. Edinburgh. 1861.

Speech on the Union Question. Edinburgh. 1866.

Sir Henry Wellwood-Moncreiff died, without issue, 3d November 1883, when the baronetcy devolved on his brother—

VIII. The Right Hon. Sir JAMES MONCREIFF, P.C., LL.D., eleventh Baronet, born 29th November 1811, and called to the Scottish Bar in 1833. After filling the offices of Solicitor-General and Lord Advocate for about fifteen years, under several Administrations (1850-69), and that of Dean of the Faculty of Advocates for eleven years from 1858, he was appointed Lord Justice-Clerk in October 1869, and resigned that office in 1889.

In noticing his first official appointment in 1850, Cockburn says :—

¹ Scott's 'Fasti Eccl. Scot.' ii. 291, 344.

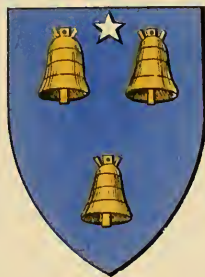
² Her arms are given at the *bottom* of page 155.

"Maitland has been succeeded as Solicitor-General by James Moncreiff, of whom I confidently augur all good. He is able professionally; an excellent speaker; an intelligent and powerful writer; a high-minded, honourable man, and of a capital breed. When his father was rejected, in 1805, for the office of Procurator of the Church, in favour of John Connell, one of the reasons given was that he was 'a bird of a foul nest'—meaning that he was a son of the Whig Sir Henry. This one's nest is still fouler, for to the filth of the grandfather is added the steady abominations of Lord Moncreiff the father."¹

Under date 6th April 1853, the same writer remarks:—

"For the first time since the creation of the world, a Lord Advocate has delivered a popular lecture to a popular audience. This feat was performed on the evening of last Friday, 1st April, A.D. 1853, by the present Lord Advocate, James Moncreiff, in the hall of the Philosophical Institution of Edinburgh. And a very good discourse it seems to have been, consisting of a comparison, or rather contrast, of the first with the last half of the current century, politics and religion excluded."²

He represented Leith in Parliament 1851-59, Edinburgh 1859-68, and the Universities of Glasgow and Aberdeen from 1868 till his elevation to the Bench. He was created a baronet (during the lifetime of his elder brother, Sir Henry) 23d May 1871; and was raised to the Peerage, under the title of Baron Moncreiff of Tullibole, 4th January 1874. He married, 12th September 1834, Isabella (who died 19th December 1881), only daughter of Robert Bell, Esq., Procurator of the Church of Scotland, and Sheriff of the counties of Haddington and Berwick, by whom he had five sons and two daughters—



1. Hon. Henry-James, B.A., LL.B., born 24th April 1840, called to the Scottish Bar 1863, appointed Sheriff of Renfrew and Bute 1881, and elevated to the Scottish Bench in 1889, under the title of Lord Wellwood. He

¹ 'Journal,' ii. 261.

² *Ibid.*, p. 288.

married, first, 3d April 1866, Susan-Wilhelmina (who died 29th October 1869), third daughter of Sir W. H. Dick-Cunningham, Baronet; and secondly, 26th March 1873, Millicent-Julia (who died 6th January 1881), eldest daughter of Colonel Fryer of Moulton Paddocks, Newmarket.

2. Hon. Robert Chichester, vicar of Tanworth, Worcester, born 24th August 1843, married, 4th January 1871, Florence-Kate, third daughter of Colonel Richard-Henry Fitz-Herbert, of Somersal Herbert, co. Derby, and has issue: James-Arthur-Fitz-Herbert, born 1872; Daisy-Isabel, born 1874; Lilian-Mary-Susan, born 1876; and Gladys-Nora-May, born 1878.
 3. Hon. James-William, born 16th September 1845, married, 19th March 1872, Mary-Lillias, eldest daughter of the late George Mitchell-Innes, Esq. of Bangour, and has issue: James-Frederick, born 1873; George, born 1874; Henry-Wellwood, born 1875; Edwin-Roberts, born 1878; and William-Francis, born 1882.
 4. Hon. Frederick-Charles, barrister-at-law, born 15th October 1847.
 5. Hon. Francis-Jeffrey, born 27th August 1849, married, first, 2d August 1871, Frances-Ramsay, eldest daughter of James-Hamilton Lawson, Esq., and by her (who died 8th January 1875) had—James-Hamilton, born 1872; and Frederick-Charles, born 1873. He married, secondly, 29th October 1880, Mildred, fourth daughter of Colonel R. H. Fitz-Herbert of Somersal Herbert, co. Derby, and has — Richard - Henry Fitz - Herbert, born 1882; Francis-Beresford, born 1883; Adrian-Wellwood, born 1885; and Norman-Halliday, born 1886.
- 1st daughter, Eleanora-Jane-Ross, married 1873 to Patrick Blair, Esq., writer to the signet.
- 2d daughter, Marianne-Eliza, married 1877 to the Right Hon. John-Blair Balfour, P.C., Q.C., Lord Advocate 1881-85, and again for a short time in 1886, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, and M.P. for Clackmannan and Kinross.

The armorial ensigns carried by the family of Wellwood-Moncreiff are as follows: Quarterly, 1st and 4th argent, a lion rampant gules,

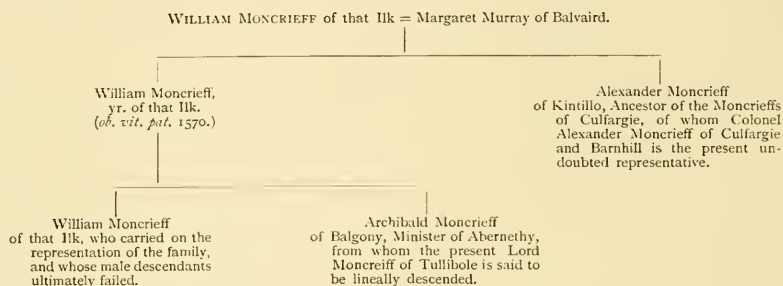
armed and langued azure, a chief ermine, for Moncreiff; 2d and 3d argent, an oak-tree issuing out of a well in base, proper, for Wellwood. *Crest*—A demi-lion rampant, as in the escutcheon. *Supporters*—Two men, armed cap-à-pie, bearing pikes upon their shoulders, proper. *Motto*—*Sûr Espérance*.

These arms were matriculated in the Lyon Register in 1771, the year in which Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood (grandfather of the present Lord Moncreiff) attained his majority. They indicate the chieftainship of the House of Moncreiff, and the right of the Tullibole family to bear them depends upon their being able to establish the various links in the preceding pedigree. It is a widespread "popular error" that in Scotland, where so much has always been said about pedigree and kinship, the published works on genealogy and the Records of the Lyon Office are both copious and trustworthy. But if this is the opinion entertained by the uninitiated, those who are entitled to speak with authority tell us a very different tale. The late Mr John Riddell, to whom we have already referred on more than one occasion, expresses very decided views on the subject in question. In the year 1818 he says, "The extraordinary forbearance and laxity of our practice in matters of arms and pedigree has long been a subject of complaint, . . . and I cannot help in general remarking how singular our policy on this head is, contrasted with the stern and rigorous ordinances of other countries."¹ Arnot, in his 'History of Edinburgh' (p. 493), makes some remarks on the very unsatisfactory state of the Lyon Office. "The business," he says, "is entirely committed to deputies, who manage it in such a manner that, in a country where pedigree is the best ascertained of any in the world, the national record of armorial bearings, and memoirs concerning the respective families inserted along with them, are far from being the pure repository of truth. Indeed there have been of late instances of genealogies enrolled in the books of the Lyon Court, and coats of arms, with supporters and other marks of distinction, being bestowed in such a manner as to throw a ridicule on the science of Heraldry." It is somewhat remarkable that these words

¹ See 'Saltfoot Controversy,' p. 121 *et seq.*

were written only a few years after the matriculation of the arms of Sir Henry Moncrieff-Wellwood, to which we have already referred, and it ought, moreover, to be borne in mind that Hugo Arnot was a gentleman of blood as well as a man of culture, and therefore knew what he was writing about.

The following tabular pedigree exhibits the relative position of the families of Culfargie and Tullibole :—



On the assumption that the descent of the Tullibole branch from Archibald Moncrieff of Balgony cannot be proved, it would appear that Colonel Moncrieff of Barnhill, representative of the family of Culfargie, and the lineal descendant of Alexander Moncrieff of Kintillo, youngest son of William Moncrieff of that Ilk and Margaret Murray of Balvaird, ought to be regarded as the present head of the House of Moncrieff, and as such would have a right to the Baronetcy of 1626.

That the family of Culfargie is legally entitled to that honour has long been a current tradition in Perthshire and elsewhere, and the following particulars may be stated in confirmation of the belief. On the 11th of May 1864, Colonel (then Captain) Moncrieff, in company with the author of this volume, called on the late Mr Frederick-Hope Pattison, then residing at No. 2 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, and had some conversation with him on the subject of the Moncrieff pedigree. Mr Pattison's mother was a cousin of Colonel Moncrieff's father, and Mr Pattison was evidently proud of his Moncrieff blood. He appeared, moreover, to have some

knowledge of heraldry and genealogy, and took considerable interest in the matter in question. He stated that he distinctly remembered visiting Colonel Moncreiff's grandfather, many years ago, at Barnhill (then called Woodend), near Perth; and during his visit, his host informed him that he had been unable to recover a pedigree of the Moncreiff family, which he had lent to the then representative of the Tullibole branch (Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood). He also showed Mr Pattison a grant of arms, which had been sent from the Lyon Office, in which the rampant lion was placed within a *bordure*, as he supposed to indicate cadency, whereas the Laird of Barnhill considered himself to be the head of the House of Moncreiff. Mr Pattison believed that the arms in question were not matriculated at the request of Colonel Moncreiff's grandfather, but on the application of some interested party.¹

The late Mrs Isabella Gordon, widow of the Rev. Dr Robert Gordon, minister of the High Church, Edinburgh, and formerly of Kinfauns, Perthshire, when residing at No. 6 Mayfield Street, Edinburgh, confirmed Mr Pattison's statements. Mrs Gordon, whose maiden name was Campbell, was brought up by Colonel Moncreiff's grandfather, and lived for several years at Barnhill. She writes as follows to Colonel Moncreiff, in a letter dated 18th January 1870:—

"I remember Mr Moncreiff of Culfargie being requested by Sir Henry Moncreiff to send him the family tree—Sir Henry's object being, on his own statement, to ascertain which was the older branch of the family.² Mr Moncreiff sent the tree. Some time after, Sir Henry wrote to him that the tree was lost, sending at the same time a description or an impression of a seal, which he said should be used in future by Mr Moncreiff, as what he was entitled to use. I remember that one of Mr Moncreiff's sons, who was standing by, looked at it and said, 'Ay, we are the younger branch, for there are stars round it.'³ Mr Moncreiff said little about it, but he was annoyed at the loss of the tree. I don't think he cared for the title, for though he had a comfortable income, he could not have kept up what he thought

¹ Mr Pattison's statements as here given are from a memorandum made *at the time* by the author of this volume.

² The expression "older branch" is used here and in the following pages in a *genealogical*, and not in a literal or chronological sense, and as

indicating a closer proximity to the main line than the other cadets.

³ An old family seal in the possession of Colonel Moncreiff bears the plain arms, crest, and motto of Moncreiff, without any mark of cadency.

a title required and do justice to his family. I have to apologise for being so long of sending this.—I remain, etc.,

ISABELLA GORDON.

P.S.—The expression made use of by Mr Moncrieff's son was one of indignation that his father was made the younger branch."

In a subsequent letter to Colonel Moncrieff's mother, dated 2d February 1870, Mrs Gordon says: "I have the impression that the general opinion was that Mr Moncrieff was the older branch, also that the tree had been destroyed in Edinburgh."¹

The following is an excerpt from a letter to Colonel Moncrieff from his cousin-german, the late Alexander Moncrieff, writer to the signet, dated Perth, 18th March 1870:—

"As I thought Mrs Craigie, my sister, who is *great* in genealogy, would know more about the family tree business than my younger sisters, I have just put Mrs C. through her facings on the subject, and found that her account of the missing tree is different from theirs,² and it is this. That there was a regular family tree at Barnhill, the upper or starting half of which she has seen (as my other sisters say they also have), and that your mother surely has that half tree, if you did not get it;³ but that the other half was lent by our grandfather to the late Lord Moncrieff's father (Sir Henry Moncrieff-Wellwood),—at least your father and Mrs Eckford (Colonel Moncrieff's aunt), and your grand-aunt, Mary Moncrieff, so alleged,—and that this half tree never could be got back, on the pretence that it was lost. I mean by the upper half of the tree remaining at Barnhill, the *root* half; for genealogical trees to show pedigrees are drawn downwards from the first ancestor, showing the descent of each branch. But Mrs Craigie tells me another curious fact—viz., that the present Sir Henry Moncrieff admitted, either to John Omond, the Free Kirk minister, or to Robert Omond, that the Culfargie branch is an older branch, and that the Tullibole family took up the title when it was a-begging, because our ancestor then did not want it, or could not afford to keep it. Perhaps he thought it was inconsistent with the dignity of a Seceder minister, as you know our forefathers were for one half of the last century."

¹ Mrs Gordon's son James, formerly Sheriff-Substitute of Banffshire, has frequently heard these facts mentioned by his mother in former years.

² The erroneous impression of the younger sisters was that the tree in question had been lent by Colonel Moncrieff's *father* to Lord Moncrieff,

and not by his grandfather to Sir Henry.

³ The only family tree in the possession of Colonel Moncrieff is that of which a *tabular* transcript is given in the Appendix, which is manifestly not the one referred to in his cousin's letter, as it is constructed on the opposite principle—*i.e.*, upwards instead of downwards.

With respect to the tradition in question, the author of this volume had an interview on the subject with Miss Craigie of Dunbarny, at No. 17 Rutland Street, Edinburgh, on the 6th of January 1870. Miss Craigie's father held, for many years, the office of Lyon Depute, and she distinctly remembered hearing him speak of the Moncrieffs of Culfargie and Barnhill as the senior branch of the family of Moncrieff. Mr Craigie's statement is entitled to considerable weight on two important grounds: (1) his local knowledge, Dunbarny being situated in the midst of what may be called the Moncrieff district; (2) his position in the Lyon Office, and his acquaintance with matters of pedigree.

Finally, on the 1st of September 1871, the author had a conversation with the late Mr James Maidment, advocate, at 23 Royal Circus, Edinburgh, relative to the Tullibole pedigree, in the course of which Mr Maidment stated that, some years previously, he had occasion to look into the matter, and was then quite satisfied that the Tullibole family had no right to the baronetcy. They alleged that the title was held by them *under the provisions of a will*, which Mr Maidment, of course, said was a worthless ground of right.

The following is a verbatim transcript of the "copy" of an unsigned and undated letter in the possession of Sir Robert D. Moncreiffe, Bart. The "Dear David" to whom it is addressed was evidently Sir David Moncreiffe, sixth Baronet of the creation of 1685; and the letter must have been written between 1825 (the date of the birth of Sir David's second son, to which reference is made) and 1830 (the date of Sir David's death). The writer, who was obviously a Moncreiffe, seems to have been influenced in some of his opinions by the erroneous statement in Douglas's 'Baronage' already referred to, that, on the death of Sir Hugh Moncrieff in 1744, the older Baronetcy of 1626 went to Sir William Moncreiffe, fourth Baronet of the later creation of 1685. We have made every possible effort to ascertain the name of the writer, but hitherto without success. At the beginning of the letter he uses the words "our uncle and my father," which would seem to indicate that he and Sir David were cousins. The expression also appears to imply that Sir David's father (Sir Thomas, fifth Baronet) had two younger brothers, the one being "our

uncle," and the other the father of the writer; but we have failed to trace any such younger brothers.

"MY DEAR DAVID,—There never was any doubt that your family was Moncreiffe of that Ilk, and the chief of all the Moncreiffes. After our uncle and my father died, there was an old servant of Baron Stewart Moncreiffe's who came to me and said, 'Some of the family should take a look of what Sir Henry Moncreiff was doing, for it would have vexed the Baron very much if he had seen how things were going.' To make the matter a little more plain to you, I must go back to Mr William Moncreiff, a clergyman. He called himself 'Sir William Moncreiff'; when he died, his son was 'Sir Henry,' and they put themselves into the Almanack, but as it was below my father and did not interfere with anything, they were allowed to keep it. After seeing the Baron's servant, I found Sir Henry had put himself into my father's place, and *our* family where he had been himself. I mentioned this to my brother, who wrote a very civil letter to Sir Henry, saying that he understood that, for many generations, his family had been the elder branch, but he did not wish to claim anything he had no right to, and if Sir Henry would send him proofs why he claimed it, he would give it up at once. Sir Henry wrote for answer, 'I am the elder branch of the Moncreiffs; Sir Thomas¹ Moncreiffe's rank and fortune will always make him of consequence in the world. The Sheriff-Clerk at Perth may be able to say why Sir Henry claims it.' I went to the Sheriff-Clerk myself; he said Mr William Moncreiff had called himself 'Sir William,' and after his death his son had called himself 'Sir Henry'; but he knew of no proof they could give that they were so. I then went to old Scott-Moncreiff, who was connected with all the Moncreiffs, and a great friend of Sir Henry's. He gave me the same answer—They had called themselves 'Sir William' and 'Sir Henry'; but he knew of no proof they could give that they were so. After that, my brother took no charge of anything, and I did no more about it; but after you married and had two sons, I thought it wrong to let them be cheated out of their right. It is amusing; at the same time, one is sorry to think that a Christian clergyman should go on, for years, to bring things to the state they are in at present. When they first put themselves into the Almanack as Baronets, they had no right to the place they went into; but my father was a good-natured man, and as they did not interfere with him at that time, he let them remain.

1769. Baronets first in the Almanack—Moncreiffe of that Ilk above Moncreiff-Wellwood of Tullibole.

1776. Moncreiffe of that Ilk in their own place.

1796. By mistake, Moncreiffe of that Ilk placed too low.

1825. Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood, taking advantage when the family of

¹ Probably a mistake for Sir *David*, whose father, Sir Thomas, died in 1818.

Moncreiffe of that Ilk could not defend themselves, got his name put into their place in the Almanack.

It would appear that Sir Henry Moncreiff's mother was a daughter of Moncreiff-Wellwood of Tullibole,¹ who was a knight, but always under Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe. When he died his daughter succeeded to the property, but could not take his title. If they had succeeded at that time to the Moncreiffes of Moncreiffe, why had they not the right to the estate, the patents, and grants of land some hundred years back, which are still in the family, and all the privileges belonging to the Knights of Nova Scotia? I wished to speak to Sir Henry, and persuade him to put the Moncreiffes of that Ilk in the place they always had, and to go back to where he was before. He was not well, but his son Mr James Moncreiff called, and I let him know what had passed between his father and some of my family. When I came to tell him what the two gentlemen² said—that they knew of no proof they could give that they had a right to what they claimed—he looked very angry, and said he would let everything remain in the state it was at present, and no one could force him to give a proof. He is an uncommon clever man, violent in the opposition. . . . I said, since he was to take it in that way, I was sorry I had given him the trouble to call, and wished him 'Good morning.'

As there has been an improper use made of some of the Nova Scotia Badges, they are all to be called in, and only given to those who can show a proper patent for it.³ As you are well acquainted with Mr Craigie of Dumbarnie and Mr Hay, who are in the Lyon Office, if you prove your right to the Nova Scotia Badge, it would be easy for them to make the person that publishes the Almanack put your name in its old place. If that is done, Sir Henry or his son will not venture to claim it. They know very well they have no right to it."

After due consideration, the present representative of the Culfargie family resolved to investigate the pedigree of his House, with the view of ascertaining his true genealogical position; and in the course of his inquiries he found the published statements of Douglas and Playfair so meagre and contradictory, and in many respects so erroneous, that he further resolved to prepare, and privately print, as full and correct an account as possible of the main line, as well as of the principal branches of the family. With that object, he has caused careful searches to be made in the parochial registers and other public records, and has put himself in communication with the representatives of the principal branches of the House of Mon-

¹ A mistake for *Wellwood of Garvock*.

Moncreiff.

² The Sheriff-Clerk of Perth and Mr Scott-

³ See page 146, note 2.

crieff, from most of whom he has received a large amount of valuable information, which is embraced in the present volume. He has also arranged and catalogued his own family papers — upwards of four hundred in number — and from them, as well as from other authentic documents kindly placed at his disposal, he has derived a great deal of unimpeachable genealogical evidence. Meantime, he leaves it to all impartial readers of this Family Record to draw their own conclusions as to his claim to be regarded as the chief of his ancient House; and at no very distant date, after his statements have been examined and considered both by interested and neutral parties, he will probably print a supplement to the present volume, either confirming or correcting what is herein advanced.



A P P E N D I X

APPENDIX.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE AUTHOR AND THE LATE REV. SIR HENRY WELLWOOD-MONCREIFF, BART.

I.

ST BENNET'S, EDINBURGH, *1st September 1871.*

DEAR SIR,—I am at present engaged in collecting materials for my friend Captain Moncreiff of Culfargie, with a view to a privately printed account of the family of Moncrieff. From papers in my possession, and the old parochial registers, I can clearly deduce Captain Moncrieff's descent from Alexander, fourth son of William Moncrieff of that Ilk by his wife Margaret Murray of Balvaird.

Playfair, in his 'British Family Antiquity,' traces your descent from Archibald Moncreiff, minister at Abernethy, a younger son of the aforesaid William's son, also William, by his wife Jean Oliphant. All genealogists are well aware that Playfair's book is a very poor authority; and my object in now writing is to ask whether you have any documentary or other evidence confirmatory of Playfair's pedigree, and more especially of the descent of William Moncreiff, minister of Blackford, from Archibald, minister of Abernethy, through (1) George Moncreiff, minister of Arngask; (2) William Moncreiff, minister of Moonzie; and (3) Archibald Moncreiff, minister of Blackford?

Upwards of a year ago, I communicated upon the subject with the Rev. Hew Scott of Anstruther-Wester, author of the 'Fasti Ecclesiæ Scoticanæ,' a copy of whose reply I beg to enclose.

Captain Moncrieff is very anxious that his book should be as accurate as possible, in its account of the various branches of the family, and hence my

present application. He is also in communication with Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, who, I understand, is very much interested in the matter.—Believe me, yours faithfully,

GEO. SETON.

The Rev. Sir H. WELLWOOD-MONCREIFF, Bart., D.D.,
2 Bruntsfield Place.

Copy of letter above referred to—

MANSE, ANSTRUTHER W., 20th August 1870.

DEAR SIR,—Being in country lodgings at present from ill health of Mrs Scott, I have just received yours of 15th inst.

I am sorry I can little assist you in your investigation relative to the family of Moncrieff. The family of Moncreiff-Wellwood, I have been told, and have always understood, to have been drawn up in Playfair's 'Baronetage' by the late Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood, minister of St Cuthbert's. As to Playfair's own work, I have never considered it more than very poor authority, yet confided in it when supported by such authority as my old venerated and respected pastor Sir Henry.

So that I can give no farther information of the descent of the first Mr Archibald Moncreiff of Abernethy than is contained in the 'Fasti,' taken from Playfair, or, as I thought, of [*sic*] Sir Henry.—I am, dear sir, yours very truly,

HEW SCOTT.

GEORGE SETON, Esq., St Bennet's, Edinburgh.

II.

FREE CH. MANSE, DOLLAR, 4th September 1871.

DEAR SIR,—Your kind favor has been forwarded to me at this address. I have been in holiday here for a month. I leave the place to-morrow, but shall not be at home till the end of the week.

I thus write at some disadvantage, at a distance from my books and papers. I am disposed to take a great interest in any attempt to represent correctly the history of the Moncrieff family. I am rather fond of such investigations. Were the subject of your enquiry one only of historical or genealogical consequence, I would gladly give all help in my power to Captain Moncrieff. But you must be well aware that it requires to be treated by me as one affecting my own position, and that of the branch of the family to which I belong.

I was not aware that Captain Moncrieff was engaged in such enquiries, till within the last three months I accidentally heard of his being so employed. I did not then know which branch of the family he represented. But when I afterwards heard that he represents the Moncrieffs of Barnhill or Culfargie, my previous attention to our genealogy gave me every reason to believe that his pedigree must be clear, as you say it is, and that probably he would be the head of the whole family, if it were proved that no lineal descendants can be found in the

male line from William, the grandfather of the first Baronet, or if any existing family of them were hereafter to become extinct. I have not, however, considered this question with close accuracy, in consequence of its not seeming to affect my own position.

I do not think the question as to the authority due to Playfair of much importance. The statements of any such work are of value only so far as they point to adequate evidence, except where the personal information or testimony of the writer is itself evidence. But even here and at present I am able to say with confidence that the descent of Sir William, my great-grandfather, can be thoroughly proved by incontestable evidence at each stage from the Moncrieff of that Ilk, who was father of Mr Archd. Moncreiff, minister at Abernethy. I have never entertained a doubt of this pedigree. It was freshly considered and ascertained in an accurate manner long after the publication of Playfair's work.

I believe that I am the only person now alive who has studied the essentials of the evidence with close accuracy. Very soon after my father's death (the late Lord Moncreiff) the papers connected with the baronetcy came into my hands. I discovered that he had himself given great and minute attention to the subject. I might have wished, before writing just now, to have consulted the Lord Justice-Clerk. But I do not think he knows so much of the matter as I do myself, or has investigated it closely.

When I speak of our pedigree being proved by incontestable evidence, I mean that the descent of Sir William is shown with accuracy through Mr Archd. of Blackford, his father, Mr Wm., of Moonzie, and Mr George, of Arngask, his grandfather and great-grandfather.

You will bear in mind that I write at a distance from documents, and simply from the remembered results of careful study. I do not wonder at all at Mr Scott knowing no more than he does. For he could not, without seeing the papers in my possession or communicating with myself. I hope I have now said enough for your purpose. No statement will be correct which does not assume my family pedigree to be as I have now represented it. I return Mr Scott's letter.—Believe me, dear sir, yours truly,

H. WELLWOOD-MONCREIFF.

GEORGE SETON, Esq.

III.

ST BENNET'S, 8th Sept. 1871.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to thank you for your prompt reply to my letter of the 1st inst., from which I am glad to learn that you are fond of genealogical investigations, and that you naturally take an interest in Capt. Moncrieff's endeavour to compile a correct History of the House to which he belongs. I do not, however, understand the meaning of the following passage in your letter: "Were the subject of your enquiry one only of historical or genealogical consequence, I would

gladly give all help in my power to Captain Moncrieff. But you must be well aware that it requires to be treated by me as one affecting my own position, and that of the branch of the family to which I belong." Captain Moncrieff's enquiry is most essentially of "genealogical consequence"; and accordingly, I trust that you will not hesitate to give him every assistance in your power. I believe you are quite correct in your opinion that, failing lineal male heirs of William Moncrieff of that Ilk, grandfather of the first Baronet, Captain Moncrieff would be the head of the family. As I have already stated, his pedigree can be proved by good documentary evidence; and in giving the other branches of the family, his main object will be to embrace no line of descent that cannot be well vouched. Some of the statements in Playfair are, according to my views of genealogy, so excessively vague and unsatisfactory that I would not feel justified in adopting many of the links which he gives without corroborative evidence, such as the papers to which you refer may perhaps furnish. A much better authority, in the eyes of sound genealogists, is Sir Robert Douglas, whose version of the Moncrieff pedigree in his 'Baronage' is altogether at variance with that given by Playfair. I am quite aware that both his 'Peerage' and 'Baronage' contain a good many serious errors; but I believe that he generally required the pedigrees which he published to be supported by evidence of some kind. Perhaps when you return to town you will favour me with an interview, in order that I may have an opportunity of talking over the matter fully, instead of prolonging our correspondence.—Believe me, yours faithfully,

GEO. SETON.

P.S.—Unfortunately, the parochial registers of Arngask, Moonzie, and Blackford throw no light on the subject of Captain Moncrieff's enquiries.

The Rev. Sir H. WELLWOOD-MONCREIFF, Bart., D.D.

IV.

2 BRUNTSFIELD PLACE, EDINBURGH, 20th September 1871.

DEAR SIR,—An earlier reply to your courteous letter of the 8th has been prevented by my occupations. I regret that, with reference to your enquiry, I do not yet see my way to any specific communication, either written or verbal. But if there be anything which you would rather mention verbally than by letter, I shall be very glad to see you.

Perhaps it is through not naturally looking at the subject from my point of view, that you do not understand the sentence which you quote from my letter, though to me the meaning seems very manifest. Both Captain Moncrieff and I have, as it seems to me, a *twofold* interest in that subject. The enquiry is *essentially*

genealogical, and of *literary* interest with reference to a printed Account of the Family. But for him and me, it is not, or, at least, *may* not, be *simply* genealogical. More especially it is not so, when, writing upon his part, you revive the authority of Sir Robert Douglas against the article in Playfair. If Sir Robert Douglas were right, then my pedigree would not be genuine. Then my great-grandfather, my grandfather, and my father were not the Baronets of the original title; and then, in all probability, after putting aside "*serious errors*" of Sir Robert upon other parts of the subject, Captain Moncrieff would be entitled to the Baronetcy.

Fresh examination more than confirms what I wrote from Dollar. Even if Captain Moncrieff's position and mine were so far reversed that his family had been in possession of the title, as mine has, for 127 years, and I had only discovered my pedigree yesterday, I could, I think, prepare before next week a statement which would establish my right as that of a branch entitled to take precedence of his. I should have no occasion to impugn *his* pedigree, though *mine* must be proved to be spurious before *his* can avail for the title.

I hesitate, however, about further communication at present, for two reasons—

1. I do not think that the editor of a topographical work, with an account of landed properties, could reasonably ask each proprietor to submit his title-deeds, as a condition of having his property mentioned; and I doubt whether the editor of a printed genealogical account can reasonably ask the holder of a title to submit all the proofs of his pedigree, as a condition of its insertion.

2. I am sure that no man ought to be his own lawyer in a question as to his title-deeds, however clearly he may see their validity; and I doubt whether any man with an hereditary title ought to be his own genealogist,—at least without competent confidential advice,—however clearly he may see the evidence of his pedigree, and however strong his confidence regarding it.

I cannot, therefore, at present commit myself to make statements or submit evidence on the subject. I think its importance requires that if, at any time, I write or say anything truly bearing on the merits of it, I should do so in the most advantageous manner, and after full consultation with persons not now in Edinburgh.

If Captain Moncrieff, as representing the Culfargie family, were simply to ask me to satisfy him *privately* with reference to the pedigree and claims of *my* family, I would gladly try to give him reasonable satisfaction. But I would rather not mix up such an attempt with my willingness to contribute to the accuracy of a printed work.

If Captain Moncrieff can postpone the circulation of his book till not only I have seen his statements in proof, but have had full time and opportunity to prepare what I may think right or may be advised to furnish, I may possibly, after consultation, be enabled to help him. If he cannot (and I have no right to ask him to do so), I may afterwards judge for myself whether I shall follow the *private* circulation of his account by any independent action on my own part. If I do so,

it will not improbably be in the form of open publication for the benefit of all who care about the matter.

Before closing this letter, let me draw your attention to some results which I have gathered from the papers in my possession. These results, though not directly touching the merits of your enquiry, may probably affect your own judgment and that of Captain Moncreiff as to the probabilities of the case.

1. Sir William Moncreiff assumed the title in 1744 without having any doubt of his pedigree, at least twenty-five years before the appearance of any part of Sir Robert Douglas's work. There was no dispute at the time, and many persons were alive who must have known and could have testified to its accuracy.

2. The pedigree was put into the hands of Sir Robert Douglas as an indisputable one. It was rejected by him, not on account of the absence of proof, but summarily and without enquiry, because it could not be reconciled with his erroneous theory as to the pedigree of the Tippermalloch baronets. I believe he had a strong bias against the claims of a family of poor but zealous Presbyterian ministers. It appears to me clear that a particular insinuation about their pedigree, made along with his rejection of it, must have been felt at that time as insulting, and must have prevented farther communication with him by Sir William.

3. Immediately before the publication of the first numbers of Sir Robert's work, Sir William died prematurely, leaving my grandfather, the late Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood, at the age of 18, without father or mother, in embarrassed circumstances, quite ignorant of the subject, and having no time to care about it. Thus there was no person of adequate information and maturity of judgment to take notice, for our family, of Sir Robert's work for several years afterwards.

4. The particulars now mentioned were fully explained by my grandfather in his answer to a most gentlemanly letter addressed to him by the former Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, grandfather of the present Sir Thomas of Moncreiffe. The answer must have satisfied Sir Thomas, for both he and the late Sir David, his son, always afterwards, I have reason to know, acted and spoke in the most honourable manner regarding my grandfather's claim to the old title and the representation of the original line.

I have not yet consulted any relation or friend on this subject. But I feel myself entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining the integrity and accuracy of my predecessors, and especially of my grandfather as the author of the article in *Playfair*. I do not say that there are no mistakes in that article on any incidental point. But its substantial and essential accuracy can never be overthrown.

I value the baronetcy chiefly on account of the pedigree and the associations wherewith it is invested.—Believe me, yours truly,

H. WELLWOOD-MONCREIFF.

GEORGE SETON, Esq., Advocate.

V.

ST BENNET'S, EDINBURGH, 26th September 1871.

DEAR SIR,—I feel extremely obliged to you for having written so fully and so frankly on the subject of the Moncrieff pedigree. With reference to your kind offer of a personal interview, I think the best plan will be to defer our meeting till Capt. Moncrieff comes to Edinr., which I find he expects to do in the course of next month, in order that *he* also may be present on the occasion. Apart altogether from the question of pedigree, I trust you will agree with me in thinking that it is highly desirable that the representatives of two important lines of the same distinguished House should be acquainted with each other.

I shall only at present state, with regard to your supposed reversal of the positions of Captain Moncrieff and yourself, that the relationship of the Culfargie family to the main line is not a discovery of yesterday. I am informed, on excellent authority, that Capt. Moncrieff's grandfather was fully aware of his rights; and, contrary to the wishes of his friends (like many other persons whom I have come across in the course of my genealogical investigations), he neglected to take any steps to vindicate his position. Captain Moncrieff's sole object is to ascertain the truth; and from his boyhood he has felt the painfulness of the uncertainty which accompanies all the published pedigrees of his House. When he asked me to undertake the editorship of his contemplated family book, I distinctly told him that, in accordance with the principles of all true genealogists, nothing should receive my *imprimatur* that could not be vouched by satisfactory evidence, and hence my communication of the 1st inst.

I ought to have mentioned in my first letter that Captain Moncrieff is most anxious that nothing should occur in connection with his inquiry calculated to cause the slightest annoyance to yourself, if it can possibly be avoided; and you may rest assured that I shall do everything in my power to carry out his wishes. —Believe me, yours faithfully,

GEO. SETON.

The Rev. Sir H. WELLWOOD-MONCREIFF, Bt., D.D.

VI.

KILMAHEW CASTLE, CARDROSS, DUMBARTON,
4th October 1871.

DEAR SIR,—Your last kind letter of the 26th September was forwarded to me at Dundee, where I was last week. I came here on Monday, but go home to-morrow.

It will gratify me much to make acquaintance with Captain Moncrieff on many accounts. I shall also be glad, as I said in my letter of 20th September, to hear

anything which you may wish to say to me verbally. But as I have now entered into communication with my relations and friends regarding the subject of your enquiry, I cannot go further in the way of explaining the grounds of my confidence in my pedigree, until I have fully submitted those grounds to them, and obtained their advice about the course which it is most desirable for me to follow.

In my supposed reversal of positions I did not mean to suggest a discovery of yesterday as to Captain Moncrieff's pedigree, though I had partly in view the recency of your own investigations. I believed that his pedigree had been apparently ascertained in my grandfather's time, and that *his* grandfather had, at one period, the conception of an imaginary right arising out of it. But the idea of a yesterday's discovery was essential to the supposition of my own reversed position. For the ascertainment of *my* pedigree makes my position independent of any question as to the integrity of *his* pedigree, while the ascertainment of *his* pedigree does *not* make his position independent of any question as to the integrity of *my* pedigree.

I am not indifferent to the kind wishes of Captain Moncrieff referred to at the close of your letter. Still I must act with the caution and sense of responsibility that are suitable in the head and representative of an ancient family, and of a line of predecessors whose memory I greatly cherish.—I remain, dear sir, yours truly,

H. WELLWOOD-MONCREIFF.

GEORGE SETON, Esq.

VII.

ST BENNET'S, 23^d July 1872.

DEAR SIR,—My friend Captain (now Major) Moncrieff is at present in Edinburgh, where he expects to remain till the middle of next week. He requests me to state that it will afford him much pleasure to have the contemplated interview with you, and my object in now writing is to ask whether it would be agreeable for you to receive us either on Thursday or Friday at 4 o'clock.—Yours very truly,

GEO. SETON.

The Rev. Sir H. WELLWOOD-MONCREIFF, Bt., D.D.

VIII.

2 BRUNTSFIELD PLACE, 24th July 1872.

DEAR SIR,—Thanks for your letter of yesterday.

In accordance with my letter of 4th October, it will gratify me much to make acquaintance with Major Moncrieff on many accounts, and I shall also be glad to see yourself at the same time.

It will not suit me, however, to enter at present into particulars on the subject of our recent correspondence. This week, moreover, I am much engaged by

various matters, public and private, previously to going to the country. While I can always manage to find myself half an hour for the agreeableness of an introduction to a gentleman such as Major Moncrieff, whom I wish to know, I am sorry not to be able to meet you and his convenience as completely as I could desire.

I am engaged as Secretary to the Bible Board on Friday at 4 P.M. And I fear I may be detained by another engagement to-morrow, so as not to be home till after 4. But if you and Major Moncrieff will kindly defer your call till *half-past 4* to-morrow, I shall be happy to see you here.—Believe me, yours very truly,

H. WELLWOOD-MONCREIFF.

GEORGE SETON, Esq.

IX.

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW WITH SIR H. WELLWOOD-MONCREIFF.

EDINBURGH, 25th July 1872.

In accordance with previous arrangements, called this afternoon upon Sir Henry Wellwood-Moncreiff at No. 2 Bruntsfield Place, along with Major Moncrieff, being our first opportunity of doing so since the interview was proposed. Major Moncrieff informed Sir Henry that he was quite prepared to acknowledge him to be the head of the family, provided he could give him satisfactory evidence of the authenticity of the pedigree printed in Playfair. He added, however, that he had inherited a tradition from his father and grandfather that the Culfargie family was the senior branch; and that he repudiated the arms assigned to them in the Lyon Register, inasmuch as they indicated cadency, and denied that they were granted on the application of his grandfather, who was alive at the date of the entry in the Record. He referred to the statement of Sir Robert Douglas in his 'Baronage' relative to Archibald Moncreiff, minister of Abernethy, towards the beginning of the seventeenth century, and to the unsatisfactory character of the article on the Moncreiff-Wellwoods in Playfair's book. Reference was also made to the MS. pedigree which was lent, on application, by Major Moncrieff's grandfather to Sir Henry's grandfather, and which was never returned. Sir Henry dwelt chiefly on the undoubted "*moral* evidence" of his pedigree, and his grandfather's belief in its authenticity, but did not condescend on any documentary or other legal proof. He said that he had others to consider besides himself, and particularly referred to the interests of his brother, the Lord Justice-Clerk. Major Moncrieff expressed a hope that he would furnish him with such information as would warrant him to print his (Sir Henry's) pedigree in his contemplated family book, which failing, it would probably require to be given under protest.

GEO. SETON.

The above memorandum was made a few hours after the interview to which it refers, and its accuracy can be confirmed by Colonel Moncrieff. G. S.

APPENDIX No. 2.

REFERRING to the closing statement at page 166, I subjoin copy of a correspondence between Sir Alexander Moncrieff and Lord Moncreiff, immediately after the issue of the first copy of the 'House of Moncrieff.' Upwards of two years have now elapsed, and no steps appear to have been taken by Lord Moncreiff to reply to the genealogical arguments advanced in this volume. Accordingly, Sir Alexander Moncrieff considers that he has given sufficient time for the presentation of any counter-statements; and in order to meet the numerous applications from friends and genealogists for copies of the volume, he has instructed me to close the controversy for the present. He reserves to himself full power to adopt any further procedure that may be advised to establish his claim to the headship of the family and the honours connected therewith.

Sir Alexander Moncrieff has lately received from his friend, the Rev. Alexander Thomson Grant, Rector of St Margaret's, Leven, a series of interesting notes relative to the family of Moncrieff, taken in the course of research in the public records, which unfortunately arrived too late for insertion in this volume.

G. S.

EDINBURGH, *September* 1893.

I.

15 VICARAGE GATE, KENSINGTON, W., *21st January* 1891.

DEAR LORD MONCREIFF,—I have given Messrs Blackwood instructions to send you the first copy of Mr Seton's book on 'The House of Moncrieff,' along

with this letter. I have not yet seen the book myself, but will receive it at the same time. Most of the matter in the book was prepared for me nearly twenty years ago.

Mr Seton lately informed me that he could this year complete the work, and that if it was not done forthwith, it could not be done at all. The valuable matter collected by him, if not put into shape and printed, would, in his opinion as well as mine, probably soon be lost. I therefore decided to print a small impression, chiefly in order to preserve the result of his investigations.

From my confidence in Mr Seton's genealogical experience, I have left the treatment of the subject and everything connected with it entirely in his hands.

You are, I believe, aware that I personally applied, in 1872, to your esteemed brother, the late Sir Harry Moncreiff, for information, when I told him that I would most gladly acknowledge the seniority of his branch of the family, if he would give reasonable proof of certain doubtful links in his published pedigree. From the manner, however, in which my proposal was received, I considered that no encouragement was given to me to repeat the application.

You are also probably aware that certain doubts have existed, and have been expressed more or less from the first, regarding the published pedigree of the family in Playfair. An expression of these doubts, and the grounds on which they are based, must—on present information—be embraced in any complete history of the family. You will observe, however, that after Mr Seton's views have been duly considered, both by interested and neutral parties, I am prepared to print a short supplement, either confirming those views, or making any modifications which criticism and further information (and I should indeed be grateful to receive any from your Lordship) may show to be necessary, even if I have to abandon the conclusions at which my predecessors had been led to arrive.

The doubts hanging over this matter have always been disagreeably embarrassing to me, as they have been to my predecessors; and I would fain hope that they may somehow be removed, so that those who follow me may not be left in the same position of uncertainty. My desire (of which I venture to think you will not altogether disapprove) is to arrive at the truth on a point that most unfortunately leads to conflicting opinions. I trust that, notwithstanding your directly opposite interest, you may be disposed to sympathise with the scruples which prevent me from accepting, without some satisfactory evidence, the position taken up by your ancestor.

I have long delayed this matter, as it is somewhat distasteful to me; but I recently arrived at the conclusion that it would not be expedient, or indeed right to others (of whom it is my bounden duty to think), to indulge any longer the hesitation caused by my regard for what must be your family sentiment.—I am, dear Lord Moncreiff, yours truly,

A. MONCRIEFF.

The Right Hon. The LORD MONCRIEFF.

II.

15 GREAT STUART STREET, EDINBURGH, *Feb'y.* 24/91.

DEAR SIR ALEX^r. MONCRIEFF,—I have received, through Messrs Blackwood, a copy of your very handsome volume on the Moncrieff Family; and also a letter from yourself to me, mentioning some of the reasons which induced you to prepare the work. As to the book itself, I return you my best thanks. I have not yet looked into it, but I shall read it with care and interest. For the rest, the letter does not seem to call for farther answer. It would be out of place, in my acknowledgment of such a gift, to enter on possible or contingent differences of opinion.—I remain, yours sincerely,

MONCRIEFF.

Sir ALEXANDER MONCRIEFF, K.C.B.

III.

15 VICARAGE GATE, W., 28th *Feb'y.* 1891.

DEAR LORD MONCRIEFF,—I have to thank you for your letter of the 24th inst., acknowledging the receipt of the first copy of Mr Seton's 'House of Moncrieff.'

After you have perused the volume, I should like you to inform me whether you have any intention of replying to Mr Seton's genealogical argument, in order that I may consider the propriety of suspending the general circulation of the volume, with the view of embracing a supplementary statement. Meanwhile, I shall confine the distribution to the representatives of the different branches of the family, and a few others who are qualified to form an opinion on a genealogical question. If, however, you should resolve to take no steps in the matter, I presume you will not object to my printing our present correspondence.—Believe me, yours very truly,

A. MONCRIEFF.

P.S.—Up to this date, no copy of the book has left my hands, except the one sent to you.

The Right Hon. The LORD MONCRIEFF.

IV.

15 GREAT STUART STREET, EDINBURGH, *March 4th,* 1891.

DEAR SIR ALEX^r. MONCRIEFF,—Your letter of the 28th has remained too long unanswered, but I have been much occupied.

I should be sorry if you made the circulation of Mr Seton's book in any way dependent on me. It is a matter entirely for your own judgment, with which I

have no right, and indeed no desire, to interfere. Other more pressing matters have prevented my studying your volume, but I shall overtake it soon. I shall, however, use the same freedom of action which I willingly accord to you, and act, or abstain from action, as I may think desirable. The matters involved are not, in my opinion, suitable for private correspondence between us.

I presume the letters you propose to print are your communication to me which Messrs Blackwood forwarded to me with your volume, and perhaps your last, and my answer. I have no objection, if you think it important.—I remain, yours very sincerely,

MONCREIFF.

Sir ALEX. MONCREIFF, K.C.B.

ERRATA ET ADDENDA.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|---|
| P. | L. | | P. | L. | |
| 22 | 12. | For "Thomas" substitute "Robert." | | | Eliza-Margaret, born 19th April (Primrose Day) 1892." |
| 50 | 29. | For "Ch. Ch." substitute "C. C. C. (Corpus Christi College)." | 132 | 33. | After "advocate" insert "by whom she has a son, Norman-Gillespie." |
| 51 | 9. | After "1876" insert "4. Lucy-Edith, born 30th July 1885." | 133 | 5. | For "1861" substitute "1859." |
| 51 | 10. | For "4" substitute "5." | 133 | 8. | For "Wilcocks" substitute "Wilcox"; and after "C.E." insert "issue, two sons and two daughters." |
| 71 | 10. | For "John Muir, Esq.," substitute "Sir John Muir, Bart." | 133 | 9. | For "Lang" substitute "Laing"; and after "Sunderland" insert "issue, one son and three daughters." |
| 117 | 9. | For "1781" substitute "1788"; and transpose "John-William" and "Alexander." | 133 | 11. | After "C.S.I." insert "LL.D." |
| 117 | 22. | After "Robert-Hope, writer to the signet," insert "married, 12th October 1886, Margaret, eldest daughter of the Rev. John Anderson, D.D., minister of the parish of Kinnoull." | 133 | 12. | For "and now" substitute "formerly." |
| 119 | 35. | After "born 1833" insert "died 8th November 1891." | 133 | 13. | After "Egypt" insert "and now Under-Secretary for Scotland." |
| 124 | 4. | After "Order of the Bath" insert "and, in 1890, was promoted to the position of Knight-Commander of the same Order. In 1892, he purchased the estates of Bandirran, in Perthshire (within a few miles of Barnhill), and Pitartie, in the county of Fife." | 133 | 15. | Delete "Captain." |
| | | | 133 | 16. | After "Violet" insert "who died young." |
| 131 | 22. | After "Marjoribanks" insert "daughter of A. Marjoribanks of Balbardie." | 133 | 18. | After "daughters" insert "He married, thirdly, in 1890, Dora, daughter of Arthur Albright of Mariemont, Birmingham." |
| 131 | 22. | After "1864" insert "by whom he had a daughter, who died young." | 158 | 27. | Before "Eleanora-Jane-Ross" insert "Hon." |
| 131 | 24. | After "Edinburgh" insert "by whom he had one son, Laurence-William, and two daughters, Robina-Christian and Mary-Eliza-beth." | 158 | 29. | Before "Marianne-Eliza" insert "Hon." |
| 131 | 24. | For "1889" substitute "1887." | 163 | 31. | Insert the following as a note to the words "hitherto without success": "(1.) Mr William Moncreiffe, brother of Sir Robert D. Moncreiffe, has suggested that the writer of the letter in question was probably the aunt of his grandfather, Sir David—viz., Jean Moncreiffe, wife of Adam Cunningham of Bonnington, in which case 'my father' would be Sir William, 4th Baronet, and 'my brother' Sir Thomas, 5th Baronet. But who was 'our uncle'? Mrs Cunningham had an uncle, Patrick Moncreiffe, who was grand-uncle of Sir David, 6th Baronet (to whom the letter is addressed), and he may have been the party referred to as 'our uncle.'" |
| 132 | 31. | After "writer to the signet" insert "married, 2d June 1891, Lora, daughter of Sir Joseph Noel Paton, R.S.A., her Majesty's Limner for Scotland, by whom he has a daughter, | | | |

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I.—PEDIGREE OF THE FAMILY

Being a Verbatim Copy—in a tabular form—of the
Alexander Moncreiff of Barnhill, representative of the

RAMERUS MONCREIFF
(The year 1871)

GASPERUS MONCREIFF

GERARDUS MONCREIFF

ROGERUS MONCREIFF

SF MATHEW MONCREIFF

SF MALCOLM MONCREIFF

SF JOHN MONCREIFF

SF JOHN married MARGARET LEVEISTON of Easter Weyms
hade 2 sonnys and one dangr.
SF WILLIAM married BEATRIX GRAHAME hade to him 3 sonnys
and 3 daughters being slaine at floud field.
[JOHN] married MARGARET daughter to the Laird of Drumkilho
3 sonnys and danghr. 2^d married a da. of the Erle off Atholl.
MARGARET married to SIR JAMES L.
hade to him a dau.

JOHN. DAVID. EDMOND.

THE FAMILY OF WESTER RIND.

SF WILLIAM married MARGARET MURRAY
of the House of Balvaird had 4 sonnys
and 5 daughters.
JOHN hade one sonne
Mr Gilbert off Myresyde
Advocat.
ALEXANDER MONCREIFF.
MARGARET,
Lady Abbets Hall
JEAN married CRAIGROSS
—hade to him 3 sonnys and
2 daugrs.
ELIZABETH married to

SF WILLIAM married JEAN OLIPHANT
daughter of Lord Oliphant had
(7) sonnys and 3 daugrs.
MR JOHN MON:
JAMES
married.
ALEX^r. MONCREIFF of Kintillo
married.
JOHN LESLIE sonne to
the Earle of Rothes
married JEAN.
ALEXANDER RUTHVEN of
married to ELIZABETH

MATHEW of Kintillo his sonne
succeeded.
To MATHEW WILLIAM
succeeded.

THE FAMILY OF KINTILLO.

SF WILLIAM married ANNAS MURRAY daughter to the Laird
of Abercainey—hade 6 sonnys and 5 (6?) daughters.
SF JOHN off Kilmoryth
married JEAN SPENS.
MR ANDREW minister at Craill
married Tippermalloch's daugr.
HUGH married HELEN DUNDAS
daughter off the Laird of Dundas.

WILLIAM deceased the
22 yeir of his age.
SF JOHN married ANNA BEATTON daughter to the
Ld. of Creich. 1 sonne and 2 daugrs 2^d (sic.)
MR HUGH married ISSOBELL HEY
daug. off Meg:
MR DAVID married MARGARET BEATON
daug: Lady of Creich.

WILLIAM. ANNE. ELIZABETH. SF JOHN MONCREIFF of (that) ilk
the eldest of the second mariadge. DAVID. HENRY. JAMES. WILLIAM.

FAMILY OF MONCREIFF,

MS. Genealogical Tree in the possession of
representative of the Moncreiffs of Culfargie.

MONCREIFF.
(year 1551)

sonne.

sonne.

sonne.

MONCREIFF of that ilk.

married KATHERIN MURRAY of y^e House of Tillibardin.

married daughter of the Laird of Dundas had 3 sons.

SON CAMPBELL of Glenorchil
was Lady of Tullibardin.

married LAIRD OF BALMOUTOW
made to him 4 sons 2 daugs.

GEORGE 2d sonne married FFRAUNET a Dutch
mont. (sic.)

ROBERT married JONNET LUNDIE daughter to
the Laird of Lundie.

WILLIAM married JONET GRAHAME daughter of
Montrose.

WILLIAM married JANNET MONCREIFF dangt. of
Wester Rind.

DAVID married CHRISTIAN RAMSEY
daug. of y^e Laird of Balmoutow.

WILLIAM married ELIZABETH MORTON
daug. of the L: of (sic.)

MATHEW married CHRISTIAN MAULD
heretrix of Easter Moncreiff 1497.

ANDREW married CHRISTIAN MONCREIFF
who dyed.

JOHN succeeded to him who dyed 1514.

ARCHIBALD succeeded to him.

ROBERT his sonne dyed without issue.
Sold it to Sir Jo Moncreiff.

THE FAMILY OF TIPPERMALLOCH.

THE FAMILY OF EASTER MONCREIFF.

of island
MABET

THE LAIRD OF DUNCUB ROLLO
married to ISSOBELL
who dyed.

MARGARET
married.

ROBERT RAMSEY of Balmoutie
married to HELLEN.

MONCREIFF minister att Aber:
married daug. of Balmanno.

HENRY dyed
without issue.

GEORGE dyed
without issue.

MARGARET married to the
LAIRD OF BALLHOLLIE.

AGNAS married DAVID MURRAY
master of Binn.

JEAN married
WILLIAM RAMSEY.

ROBT.

JAMES.

CHRISTEN married
ROBERT FFORBES of Paris.

ANNAS married to
JAMES RAMSEY of Corten.

KATHARIN
Lady Logie.

JEAN
Lady Lays.

BERSHEEA MONCREIFF.

NICOLAS married
JOHN FFINGASK.

II.—PEDIGREE OF THE

(From a Manuscript Volume of genealogy)

RAYMERS MONCREIF

GASPEL MONCREIF

GERARD MONCREIF

ROGER MONCREIF

SIR MATTHEW MONCREIF

SIR MALCOLM MONCREIF

SIR JOHN MONCREIF of that Ilk = MARGARET, daughter of Levingstoune of Easter Wemyss.

SIR WILLIAM MONCREIF = BEATRIX GRAHAME.
of that Ilk
(Killed at Flodden.)

MARGARET, daughter of Tyrie of Drunkilbo =¹ MR. JOHN MONCREIF =² A daughter of the House of Athol.

EDMOND. DAVID. JOHN.

SIR WILLIAM MONCREIF = MARGARET, daughter of Murtay of Balvaird.
of that Ilk

JOHN MONCREIF =
GILBERT MONCREIF
of Myreside, Advocate.

ALEXANDER MONCREIF.

MARGARET MONCREIF, m. to — of Abthall.
ELIZABETH MONCREIF, m. to Boswell of Kint.
JEAN MONCREIF, m. to — of Craige Rie.

SIR WILLIAM MONCREIF = JEAN, daughter of Lord Oliphant.
of that Ilk

JAMES MONCREIF.

MR. JOHN MONCREIF.

ALEXANDER MONCREIF =
Laird of Kintullo

MATTHEW MONCREIF =
of Kintullo

WILLIAM MONCREIF
of Kintullo.

SIR WILLIAM MONCREIF = ANNAS, daughter of Abercainne.
of that Ilk

SIR JOHN MONCREIF = JEAN SPENSE.
of Kilmouth

MR. ANDREW MONCREIF = Daughter of Moncreif of Tippermalloch.
Minister at Craig

HUGH MONCREIF = HUGH
Duns of Fife

ANNA, daughter of Beaton of Creich =¹ SIR JOHN MONCREIF =² MARY, daughter of William Murray, Earl of Athol.
of that Ilk. [1st Part.]

WILLIAM MONCREIF,
d.s.p. at 22.

MR. HUGH MONCREIF = ISOREL, daughter of Hay of Megginsh, or Pitfour.

MR. DAVID MONCREIF

WILLIAM MONCREIF,
d.s.p.

ANNAS MONCREIF,
m. to James Beaton
of Balfour.
ELIZABETH MONCREIF,
d. unmarried.

SIR JOHN MONCREIF of that Ilk [2d Part.]
Sold Estate of Moncreif to Thomas Moncreif, "au Orkney man," one of the Clerks of Exchequer, and afterwards Kt. Bart., d.s.p.

SIR DAVID MONCREIF
[3d Part.], d.s.p.

HENRY MONCREIF,
d.s.p.

SIR JAMES MONCREIF
[4th Part.], d.s.p.

THE FAMILY OF MONCREIF.

(of genealogies in the Advocates' Library.)

MONCREIF

MONCREIF.

MONCREIF

MONCREIF.

MONCREIF of that Ilk.

MONCREIF of that Ilk = CATHARINE MURRAY, Heiress of Tullibardine.

SIR JOHN MONCREIF of that Ilk = Daughter of the Laird of Dundas.

GEORGE MONCREIF = "FRENNET, a Dutch woman."

MATTHEW MONCREIF = CHRISTIAN MAULD, Heiress of Easter Moncreif.

ROBERT MONCREIF = JANET, daughter of Lundie of that Ilk.

ANDREW MONCREIF = CHRISTIAN MONCREIF, of Easter Moncreif.

WILLIAM MONCREIF = JANET GRAHAME, daughter of Montrose.

JOHN MONCREIF = ——— of Easter Moncreif. (Died 1514.)

WILLIAM MONCREIF = JANET MONCREIF of Wester-rind.

ARCHIBALD MONCREIF = ——— of Easter Moncreif.

DAVID MONCREIF = CHRISTIAN, daughter of Ramsay of Balmouly.

WILLIAM MONCREIF = ELIZABETH, daughter of Morton of Cambo.

ROBERT MONCREIF. Sold Easter Moncreif to Sir John Moncreif, and *d.s.p.*

JEAN MONCREIF, *m.* to John Leslie, 2d son of William Earl of Rothes.

ELIZABETH MONCREIF, *m.* to Alexander Ruthven of Frieland.

ISABELL MONCREIF, *m.* to Rollo of Duucrub.

HENRY MONCREIF, *m.* to Robert Ramsay of Balmouly.

MARGARET MONCREIF, *m.* to ———.

Heiress, daughter of Dundas of Fingask.

MR. ARCHIBALD MONCREIF = Daughter of Sir William of Balmouly, Minister of Auchinleck of Balmouly.

HENRY MONCREIF. GEORGE MONCREIF. Both *d.s.p.*

MARGARET MONCREIF, *m.* to ——— of Balhousie. JEAN MONCREIF, *m.* to William Ramsay of Corstan. AGNES MONCREIF, *m.* to David Murray, Master of Bin.

MR. ARCHIBALD MONCREIF, also Minister at Abernethy.

MR. GEORGE MONCREIF, Minister at Arngask.

ELIZABETH MONCREIF, *m.* to Robert Dempersoun, Portioner of Auchtermuchtie, *s.p.*

Who both had issue.

DAVID MONCREIF = MARGARET MONCREIF, Heiress of Balcastie (not Margaret Beaton of Creich).

JAMES MONCREIF.

ROBERT MONCREIF.

CHRISTIAN MONCREIF, *m.* to Robert Forbes of Rires. ANNAS MONCREIF, *m.* to James Ramsay of Corstan. CATHARINE MONCREIF (Lady Logie Wishart). JEAN MONCREIF, *m.* to Hay of Leys. NICHOLAS MONCREIF, *m.* to John Dundas of Fingask. BETHSHEBA MONCREIF, *m.* to Sir David Barclay of Callerny.

Sir James MONCREIF [1st], *d.s.p.*

WILLIAM MONCREIF, *d.s.p.*

MARGARET MONCREIF, *m.* to George Murray of Pittencreif, brother to Lord Elbank.

III.—PEDIGREE OF THE FA

(From DOUGLAS' 'Baronage')

MATTH ES DE J
(d. 1248)

SIR JOHN MONCREIFF

SIR WILLIAM MONCREIFF

DUNCAN MONCREIFF
(died 1318)

SIR JOHN MONCREIFF

SIR MALCOLM MONCREIFF
(died 1418)

SIR JOHN MONCREIFF of that Ilk = Daughter of Sir Archibald Dundas of that Ilk

SIR JOHN MONCREIFF of that Ilk = BEATRIX FORMAN.
(Died before 1530.)

ISABEL MONCREIFF,
ELIZABETH MONCREIFF

SIR WILLIAM MONCREIFF = MARGARET, daughter of
of that Ilk Murray of Balvaird.
(Died cir. 1574.)

HUGH MONCREIFF
of Tubbermallo.

WILLIAM MONCREIFF = JEAN, daughter
(ob. vitâ patris), of Laurence
Lord Oliphant.

JOHN MONCREIFF.

ALEXANDER MONCREIFF,
("died without issue"?)

ISABEL MONCREIFF,
m. to Sir George
Roll of Duncrub.

WILLIAM MONCREIFF
of Tubbermallo.

GILBERT MONCREIFF,
("of whom there is no succession.")

WILLIAM MONCREIFF = ANNE,
of that Ilk (suc. daughter
his grandfather), of Robert
Murray of
Abercainie.

DAVID MONCREIFF = THE HEIRESS
OF BALCASKIE
("but we can give no account of
his posterity").

[William Moncreiff, who married Jean
Oliphant, "is also said to have had
another son, Mr. Archibald Moncreiff,
who was minister at Abernethy in Perth-
shire, and progenitor of Mr. William
Moncreiff, minister of Blackford, who,
upon the death of Sir Hugh of Tubber-
mallo, claimed the Baronetship, but as
we find no documents to prove his
succession, we cannot here deduce his
descent."]

HUGH MONCREIFF
of Tubbermallo.

DAVID MONCREIFF
(died 1618)

WILLIAM MONCREIFF
of Tubbermallo.

BALDWIN MONCREIFF

DAVID MONCREIFF,
d.s.p.

ANNE,
daughter
of David
Beaton
of Creich.

¹ SIR JOHN MONCREIFF
of that Ilk, cr. Bart.
1628.

² LADY MARY,
daughter of
William
Murray, 2d
Earl of
Tullibardine.

ROBERT MONCREIFF
of Craigie.
HUGH MONCREIFF
of Malar.
Both d.s.p.

ELIZABETH MONCREIFF,
m. to Sir William
Ruthven of Freclaud.
HELEN MONCREIFF, m.
to Robert Ramsay of
Balmillie.
JEAN MONCREIFF, m. to
Hay of Leys.
ANNE MONCREIFF, m. to
Sir John Dundas of
Fingask.

SIR JOHN MONCREIFF = NICHOLAS MONCREIFF,
of Tubbermallo, suc- his cousin
ceeded as 4th Bart.
in 1698.

SIR HUGH MONCREIFF
of Tubbermallo, 5th
Bart., died unmd.
1742 (1744?).

BETHIA
MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF,
(ob. vitâ
patris, s.p.)

SIR JOHN MONCREIFF of
that Ilk, 2d Bart., sold
the estate of Moncreiff
to his kinsman Thomas
Moncreiff, of the family
of Rapness, in 1663.
Died unmd. 1665.

SIR JAMES MONCREIFF,
3d Bart., d.s.p. 1698.

AGNES MONCREIFF, m. to Sir William Stewart
of Grandtully.
JEAN MONCREIFF, m. 1st to Simon Fraser of
Inverlachie, 2d to Sir Thomas Burnet
of Leys, Bart.

JOHN MONCREIFF
(succeeded
Tubbermallo)

WILLIAM MONCREIFF
of Tubbermallo

THE FAMILY OF MONCREIFF.

st "Baronage of Scotland.")

THOMAS DE MONCREIFF,
(ir. 1248.)

JOHN MONCREIFF of that Ilk.

WILLIAM MONCREIFF of that Ilk. SIR RALPH MONCREIFF.

JOHN MONCREIFF of that Ilk.
(Died 1357.)

JOHN MONCREIFF, "dominus ejusdem."

WILLIAM MONCREIFF of that Ilk. = KATHARINE MURRAY, of the family of Tullibardine.
(Died 1465.)

JOHN MONCREIFF of that Ilk. GEORGE MONCREIFF of Tubbermallo,
d.s.p. MATTHEW MONCREIFF, first of the House
of Easter Moncreiff ("of whom several
families of the name of Moncreiff are
descended").

JOHN MONCREIFF, m. to Sir William Scott of Balwearie.

JOHN MONCREIFF, m. to Patrick Hay of Leys.

JOHN MONCREIFF of Kinmouth = ISABEL, daughter of Robertson
and Rapness. of Strowan.

[AGNES] MONCREIFF, m. to Thomas Scott, Justice-Clerk.
JEAN MONCREIFF, m. to John Leslie of Parkhill, 2d son
of William, 3d Earl of Rothes.
ELIZABETH MONCREIFF, m. to David Boswell of Balmuto.

BARBARA, daughter of = ¹DAVID MONCREIFF = ²MARY, daughter of
Baikie of Tankerness. of Rapness. Nisbet of Swannie. WILLIAM MONCREIFF,
ancestor of the later
Moncreiffs of Tub-
bermallo.

DAVID MONCREIFF = MARGARET, daughter of
Rapness. Anderson of
Holmsound. SIR THOMAS MONCREIFF
purchased estate of
Moncreiff in 1663, cr.
Bart. 1685, d.s.p. HARRY MONCREIFF = BARBARA,
daughter of
Herbert of
Cardiff. DAUGHTER
m. to Andrew
Young of
Castleyards. WILLIAM MONCREIFF.

BARBARA = ALEXANDER HUNTER
of Muirhouse. SIR THOMAS MONCREIFF = MARGARET,
daughter of
David Smith
of Methven. HARRY MONCREIFF
of Rapness. DAVID MONCREIFF,
Provost Marshal-
General of Ja-
maica. MARY MONCREIFF = SIR THOMAS FREDERICK.

SIR THOMAS MONCREIFF = KATHARINE,
3d Bart. daughter of
Sir William
Murray of
Ochertyre,
Bart. DAVID MONCREIFF
of Moredun. MARGARET MONCREIFF, m. to Lt.-General
Gordon of Auchintoul.
JEAN MONCREIFF, Died unmarried.
JANET MONCREIFF, m. to Hon. Captain
Charles B. Maitland, brother of the Earl
of Lauderdale.

WILLIAM MONCREIFF, minister of Methven,
descended from the
Moncreiffs of Rap-
ness. Other daughters.

WILLIAM MONCREIFF,
4th Bart. of 1685 (and
6th Bart. of 1686, on
death of Sir Hugh of
Tubbermallo ?) PATRICK MONCREIFF
an officer in the
Army.

WILLIAM MONCREIFF = MARGARET, daughter of
Archibald Moncreiff,
Minister at Blackford.

WILLIAM MONCREIFF Several other children.
Tubbermallo.

IV.—PEDIGREE OF THE "AMIL"

(From PLAYFAIR'S "British Family Antiquity")

RAMERUS DE MONCREIFF
(1107-22)

GASPERUS DE MONCREIFF

GERARD DE MONCREIFF

THREE SONS
(*ob vitâ patris*).

ROGER DE MONCREIFF

ONLY DAUGHTER =

JOHN MONCREIFF
(1286)

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

DUNCAN MONCREIFF
died 1387.

JOHN MONCREIFF
died 1410.

MALCOLM MONCREIFF of
died c. 1480

JOHN MONCREIFF of Moncreiff = Daughter of Archibald Dundas of Dundas.

SIR JOHN MONCREIFF = BEATRIX, daughter of
of Moncreiff Forman of Luthrie.

HUGH MONCREIFF of Pitgornie = JANET OCHILTREE.
(1506).

WILLIAM MONCREIFF = MARGARET,
of that ilk daughter of
Murray of
Balvaird.

JOHN MONCREIFF [of Rapness], "said to be the an-
cestor of Sir Thomas Moncreiff now of Moncreiff."
[The Pedigree of the Rapness family as given by Playfair
(vol. viii. p. 356), is the same as in Douglas' "Baronage,"
with the addition of two later generations.]

AGNES MONCREIFF m. to Thomas Scot, Lord
Justice-Clerk.
JEAN MONCREIFF m. to John Leslie of Parkhill,
2d son of William 3d Earl of Rothes.
ELIZABETH MONCREIFF m. to David Boswell of
Balmuto.

WILLIAM MONCREIFF, = JEAN, daughter of
younger, of that ilk Lord Oliphant.
(*ob vitâ patris*, 1570).

JOHN MONCREIFF,
Prior of Blantyre.
(*Died unmd.*)

ALEXANDER MONCREIFF,
"ancestor of the Mon-
creiffs of Kintillo, after-
wards of Culfargie and
now of Barnhill."
(*See A.*)

ISABELL MONCREIFF
m. cir. 1552, Sir
George Rollo of
Duncrub, ancestor
of Lord Rollo, *s.p.*

GILBERT MONCREIFF,
"Physician to the King,"
obtained letters of legiti-
mation in 1585.

WILLIAM MONCREIFF = ANN, daughter of
of that ilk, suc- Robert Moray
ceeded his grand- of Abercainry.
father, cir. 1575.

ARCHIBALD MONCREIFF
of Balgouny, minister of
Abernethy, ancestor of
the Moncreiff-Well-
woods of Tulliebole.
(*See B.*)

HUGH MONCREIFF
of Kirkton of
Malar (1607) *d.s.p.*

DAVID MONCREIFF = THE HEIRESS OF
BALCASKIE.
TWO SONS,
both died *s.p.m.*

SIR JOHN MONCREIFF
of the Moncreiff
and Balmuto
JOHN

WILLIAM MONCREIFF.
Died unmd., æt. 22,
before 1612.

ANNE, daughter of
David Bethune
of Creich.

SIR JOHN MONCREIFF =² LADY ANNE MURRAY,
of that ilk, only daughter of William
1st Baronet (cr. 1626).
Died 1650.

ROBERT MONCREIFF
of Craigie
(1611).

A SON
(*ob vitâ
patris*).

[ANNAS] MONCREIFF,
m. to Bethune of
Balfour, *d.s.p.* 1649.
ELIZABETH MONCREIFF,
d. unmd. 1710.

SIR JOHN MONCREIFF
of that ilk, 2d Baronet.
Died unmd. 1674, hav-
ing previously sold the
estate of Moncreiff to
Sir Thomas Moncreiff,
Bart. (cr. 1685).

SIR DAVID MONCREIFF,
3d Baronet.
Died unmd.

WILLIAM MONCREIFF.
HENRY MONCREIFF.
Both died *unmd.*

SIR JAMES MONCREIFF,
4th Baronet.
Died unmd.

MARGARET MONCREIFF,
m. to Geo. Murray,
2d son of Geo. 1st
Lord Elphinstone

THE FAMILY OF MONCREIFF.

Antiquity," vol. viii. p. 89, et seq.)

DE MONCREIFF

DE MONCREIFF.

DE MONCREIFF.

DE MONCREIFF.

DE MONCREIFF.

DE MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF.

DE MONCREIFF

DE MONCREIFF

DE MONCREIFF of Moncreiff

GEORGE MONCREIFF

ROBERT MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

WILLIAM MONCREIFF

TWO OTHER SONS
(*ob viâ patris*).

FIFTH SON.

MATTHEW DE MONCREIFF
(cir. 1248).

DE MONCREIFF
(1296).

RALPH MONCREIFF.

DIED 1357).

DIED 1410).

CATHARINE MURRAY of the
family of Tullibardine.

of Tippermalach.
(1473).

JANET LUNDIE.
of Tippermalach.

JANET GRAHAM,
of the family
of Montrose.

A SON.

WILLIAM MONCREIFF of Tippermalach
(1605), *d.s.p.* cir. 1655, having previously
conveyed his estate to John Moncreiff,
son of Hugh, a younger brother of the 1st Baronet.

MATTHEW MONCREIFF = CHRISTIAN MAULD, heiress of Easter Moncreiff.

JOHN MONCREIFF of Easter Moncreiff
d.s.p. 1514.

ARCHIBALD MONCREIFF
of Easter Moncreiff.

JOHN MONCREIFF
of Easter Moncreiff.

JAMES MONCREIFF of Easter Moncreiff,
succeeded his brother and sold his
estate, cir. 1595, to Sir John Moncreiff
of Kinnmouth.

JOAN SPENCE.
er Moncreiff
amouth

JAMES MONCREIFF.
Died unmd.

ELIZABETH MONCREIFF *m.* to —, and died 1570.
CATHARINE MONCREIFF *m.* to John Paterson.
CHRISTIAN MONCREIFF *m.* to David Phin.
AGNES MONCREIFF *m.* to David Murray of Balcrony.

JOHN MONCREIFF = MARGARET ARNOT.

HUGH MONCREIFF = ISABEL, daughter
of Hay of
Megginch.

DAVID MONCREIFF,
succeeded his brother
Robert in the estate
of Craigie in 1624.

CHRISTIAN MONCREIFF, *m.* to Robert Forbes of Rires.
ELIZABETH MONCREIFF, *m.* to Sir William Bethune (*sic*) of Freeland.
HELEN MONCREIFF, *m.* to Robert Ramsay of Balmillie.
JEAN MONCREIFF, *m.* to Sir Simon Fraser of Inverlachie.
ANNE MONCREIFF, *m.* to Sir John Dundas of Fingask.

SIR JOHN MONCREIFF of Tippermalach, = NICHOLAS, daughter
5th Baronet, in whom the title "was
of course vested" after the death of
the 4th Baronet. *Died* cir. 1710.

SIR HUGH MONCREIFF
of Tippermalach,
6th Baronet.
Died unmd. 1744.

Several other Sons,
who all died
before their father.

BETHIA MONCREIFF =

WILLIAM MONCREIFF,
minister of Methven,
"a native of Orkney."

JEAN MONCREIFF.
ELIZABETH MONCREIFF.
Both died unmd.

JOHN MONCREIFF, minister of Rhynd,
succeeded his uncle Hugh in the estate of Tippermalach.
Represented in 1811 by Dr. Moncreiff, Physician at Bristol.

BETHIA MONCREIFF.
Died unmd. 1775.

PEDIGREE OF THE MONCREIFFS OF KINT

(From PLAYFAIR'S "*British Family Antiquity*," vol.

WILLIAM MONCREIFF = MARGARET MURRAY, of the
OF THAT ILK

ALEXANDER MONCREIFF = CHRISTINA, daughter of Sir
(3d Son), acquired the lands of Kintillo

MATTHEW MONCREIFF = GRACE, of Kintillo

WILLIAM MONCREIFF, Colonel in the Army, succeeded to Kintillo, which he sold, and acquired Culfargie.

A SON
(*ob. vitâ patris*).

ALEXANDER MONCREIFF, minister of Scoonie.

[ELIZABETH] THOMAS = MATTHEW MONCREIFF = MARGARET MURRAY, daughter of Murray of Woodend.
of Culfargie succeeded his father.

MARY, daughter of Sir John Clerk of Penicuik, Bart. = ALEXANDER MONCREIFF = GRACE, of Culfargie

MATTHEW MONCREIFF = ANNE, eldest daughter of Sir John Clerk of Culfargie

ALEXANDER MONCREIFF of Culfargie, which he sold to the Earl of Wemyss and purchased Barnton from Sir James Threpland.

MONCREIFFS OF KINTILLO AND CULFARGIE.

(*British Family Antiquity*, vol. viii. p. 92.)

T=MARRET MURRAY, OF THE
MILY OF BALVAIRD.

THOMAS MONCREIFF=CHRISTIAN, daughter of
Crichton of Strathurd.

MATTHEW MONCREIFF=GRIZEL MAULD.
Kintillo

REBECCA=ANNE, daughter of Murray of Woodend.
ISABEL MONCREIFF.
ANNE MONCREIFF.
ELIZABETH MONCREIFF.

THOMAS MONCREIFF²=MARGARET MITCHELL, of the
family of Balbeardy.

1ALEXANDER MONCREIFF²=JEAN, daughter of Lyon of Ogill. DAVID MONCREIFF of Easter Rhynd,
of Culfargie ancestor of the Scott-Moncreiffs of
Newhalls.

THOMAS MONCREIFF=ANNE, eldest daughter of WILLIAM MONCREIFF. GEORGE MONCREIFF. Several
of Culfargie Dr Scott of Coats. Daughters.

ALEXANDER MONCREIFF of Culfargie, sold to the Earl of Wemyss and purchased Barnhill from Sir Robert Moncreiff, Several Daughters.
Died unmtd.

Several Daughters.

PEDIGREE OF THE MONCREIFF

(From PLAYFAIR'S "British Families")

WILLIAM MONCREIFF, YOUNGER OF THAT ILK — JIM, DAUGHTER OF
(*ob. viâ patris* 1570).

ARCHIBALD MONCREIFF, MINISTER OF BALGONY,
of Abernethy, — (2d dau.)

ARCHIBALD MONCREIFF of Balgony — (which he sold to William Oliphant), minister of Dollar, and afterwards of Abernethy. "Lived till after 1662."	BARBARA, eldest daughter of David Moncreiff of Balcas-kie, "probably descended from the first branch of Easter Moncreiff."	GEORGE MONCREIFF, — (1st dau.)
---	--	--------------------------------

DAVID MONCREIFF, — Daughter of minister of Aber-dalgie. "Left no children."	WILLIAM MONCREIFF, "married and had children, but all his children died in their infancy. He lived to an extreme old age, and died in 1712."	ANNE MONCREIFF m. to Rev. Wm. Spence, minister of Fossaway. MARY MONCREIFF m. to John Gall of Balbigge. MARGARET MONCREIFF, <i>died unmtd.</i>
--	--	--

ARCHIBALD MONCREIFF — minister of Blackford. (<i>Died</i> 1739).	CATHARINE, eldest daughter of John Halliday of Tulliebole.	DAVID MONCREIFF, Physician "Died early unmtd."
--	--	---

SIR WILLIAM MONCREIFF, — minister of Blackford, "succeeded to the title (as 7th Bart.) on the death of Sir Hugh Moncreiff of Tippermalloch in 1744." (<i>Died</i> 1767).	CATHARINE, eldest daughter of Robert Wellwood of Garvock.	JOHN MONCREIFF, "a man of letters." <i>Died unmtd.</i> 1761. ROBERT MONCREIFF, a clergyman of the Church of England. <i>Died unmtd.</i> 1767.
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SIR HENRY MONCREIFF, D.D., — minister of Blackford, and afterwards of St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, 8th Bart. "Fifth descendant in the direct line from the uncle of the 1st Baronet" (<i>i.e.</i> Archibald Moncreiff, minister of Abernethy), assumed surname of Wellwood on succeeding to the estate of Tulliebole.	SUSAN, eldest daughter of James Robertson Barclay of Keoville.	ARCHIBALD MONCREIFF, merchant in Balti-more. <i>Died unmtd.</i> 1803.
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ROBERT MONCREIFF, —
A SON,
an officer in the
establishment

WILLIAM MONCREIFF, H.M. Advocate at Malta.	JAMES MONCREIFF, — Advocate.	ANNE, youngest daughter of Captain George Robertson, R.N.
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HENRY MONCREIFF, — Clerk to the Signet.

REIF-WELLWOODS OF TULLIEBOLE.

Antiquity," vol. viii. p. 99 *et seq.*)

DAUGHTER OF LORD OLIPHANT.

MONCREIFF of Balgony, minister—MARGARET, sister of Sir George Auchinleck of Balmanno.
A Son—(*died* cir. 1630).

MONCREIFF, CATHERINE, daughter of Murray of Fosterseat.	ANDREW MONCREIFF, Advocate. JOHN MONCREIFF, served under Gustavus Adolphus. Both died unmarried.	MARGARET MONCREIFF m. to Arnot of Pitmedden. SARAH MONCREIFF m. to John, 2d son of Lockhart of Lee. ANN MONCREIFF m. to Rev. John Wood, minister of Tulliallan.
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MONCREIFF ¹ WILLIAM MONCREIFF, minister of Moonzie, (<i>died</i> cir. 1690).	EUPHEMIA ² ALEXANDER.	DAVID MONCREIFF. Two sons and one daughter. "No descendants alive."	ELIZABETH MONCREIFF (2d daughter) m. to Rev. Robert Geddes. CATHARINE MONCREIFF. HELEN MONCREIFF. BARBARA MONCREIFF. <i>All died unmd.</i>
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MARY MONCREIFF m. to Rev. Andrew Ure, minister of Fossaway.	WILLIAM MONCREIFF. "All died without issue."	Two Daughters.
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MORLEY, CHARLES MONCREIFF. ALEXANDER MONCREIFF. Both <i>died</i> young.	MARGARET MONCREIFF m. to John Moncreiff of Tippermalloch.	HELEN MONCREIFF. <i>Died unmd.</i> 1772.	Eight other children.
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MONCREIFF, *died* 1768.

JOHN MONCREIFF, Apothecary in Edinur.	WILLIAM MONCREIFF, an officer in the Bengal establishment. (<i>Died</i> 1795).	GEORGE MONCREIFF, <i>died unmd.</i>	SUSAN MONCREIFF m. to Rev. William Paul, minister of St. Cuthbert's.
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A SON. A DAUGHTER.

CHARLOTTE, only daughter of Hugh Paterson Rollo of Bannockburn.	GEORGE MONCREIFF, merchant in Edinburgh.	ARCHIBALD MONCREIFF, Assistant in Journal Office, House of Lords.	ISABELLA MONCREIFF m. to Dr. John Stoddart of Doctors' Commons. CATHARINE MONCREIFF, <i>unmd.</i>
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